

LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATION  
RECORD

CONTENTS

LIAISON

Volume 62  
Number 11  
November 1960

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## A Librarian's Calendar

November 21st, 22nd, 24th.—King's College, Strand, W.C.2. 5.30 p.m. Three lectures by A. N. L. Munby on "The cult of the autograph letter".

November 23rd-25th.—L.A. Committees and Council.

November 23rd.—British Institute of Recorded Sound, 38, Russell Sq., W.C.1. Miss Valentine Britten on "The B.B.C. Gramophone Library".

November 30th.—British Institute of Recorded Sound. T. Eckersley on "The B.B.C. Recorded Programmes."

December 3rd.—U. & R. Section (Scottish Section), Mitchell Library, Glasgow, 3 p.m. D. J. Wilson-Reid on "Private Archives".

December 7th.—University & Research Section (London Group) visit to Holborn Central Library, Theobalds Road, W.C.1. 6 p.m.

December 14th.—Newcastle upon Tyne University Library, 3.15 p.m. Presidential visit. B. S. Page on "Title and idea".

### 1961

January 6th.—Reference, Special and Information Section (S.E. Group), University of London Institute of Education, Sherry Party, 6.30 p.m. Tickets 6s. each from Mrs. Stokes, at the Institute (please enclose s.a.e.).

January 18th.—R.S.I.S. (S.E. Group) and Circle of State Librarians, visit to Royal Institution, 21 Albemarle St., W.1. 6.15 p.m.

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# THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECORD

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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Chaucer House, Malet Place, London, W.C.1

Editor:

J. D. REYNOLDS, F.L.A.

Vol. 62 No. 11

November 1960



## ***Kensington Borough Library***

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## Room to Breathe

THIS issue of the RECORD contains descriptions and photographs of 20 new library buildings, recently completed, building, or actively projected. It is only a very small selection of the total volume of work known to be on hand, and is entirely devoted to public libraries. A further issue will be devoted to some beautiful and imaginative university and special libraries recently completed.

The fact that an entire issue of the RECORD can be devoted to buildings, and that only a small selection, is evidence of the progress in the long overdue reclothing of the library service of this country.

This is only two years after Mr. G. A. Carter's devastating conference paper, which ended most appropriately with the word, "Action!" In his footnote to that paper in this issue, Mr. Carter seems a little doubtful whether action has in fact been taken, but Mr. Berriman, in a footnote to his paper, is in no doubt so far as counties are concerned. Since 1958, over £2,500,000 worth of new county buildings have been put in hand, compared with Mr. Carter's figure of £2,000,000 for all libraries since the war. What the comparative figure for urban libraries is one does not know, but the cost of the new central libraries alone recently completed, or actively projected, must amount to more than £2,000,000.

The idea that at last libraries are to be housed in something approaching reasonable comfort and dignity is an exciting one in itself. But what is more important is whether we as librarians can respond to the challenge of this building programme. Have we absorbed and reflected on the Continental and American ideas of library planning and interior design? Are we prepared to reshape our ideas to fit the ever-widening concepts of library service in this age of mass-

communication? Will these new libraries be fitted to do the job we have so emphatically said needs to be done? Reading through the descriptions of libraries which follow, one feels that architects and librarians generally have absorbed a great deal in the period of war and stagnation, and are now actively applying their ideas.

One notices, for instance, that the architect of the Norwich Central Library was influenced by Duisburg, that the City Librarian was impressed by Östersund in Sweden. Mr. S. G. Cook, the architect responsible for the immensely successful Holborn Library, made a long and obviously profitable visit to Sweden before setting his concept on paper, and the informed sightseer can trace various influences of that visit. The Architect and Chairman of Committee from Luton also visited Sweden. In technical details, also, one can see new ferment at work. The bold and sweeping conception at Bradford features subject division, and elsewhere the old rigid conceptions of children, reference, and lending are melting. The study room at Folkestone, for instance, "acknowledges no distinctions of age". The reference library at Luton merges into the lending library, and there is to be a single control for the whole building.

In the branch libraries, particularly, there is a new insistence on informality and comfort. The plague of the "thirties", polished natural oak, is hardly mentioned in these pages, and the hard chairs and display units built like battleships are gone, one hopes, for ever. New materials, new heating systems, new building methods, are being used effectively, with emphasis on space, light, and colour.

At last, it seems, the library service of this country is going to have room to breathe.

## Provincial Progress

*The following anthology of reports on new public library buildings has been collected for this special number over the past year. It is hoped that its impact will result in stimulating authorities whose libraries are out of date, and compensate certain of the contributors who have had to wait so long.*

### Belfast

#### Ormeau Road Branch

DURING the last few years, the library service of Belfast has expanded very considerably. Properly staffed technical, Irish and music libraries have been established, and a similar special library devoted to art is being considered. A mobile library service will be instituted within a few weeks, and work is about to begin on an extension to the Central Library, which is designed to house 500,000 books and to accommodate all administrative staff. In addition, six new full-time branch libraries are to be added to the system soon. Of these, two have already been opened. Ormeau Road Branch Library is one and two others will be ready some time this year.

The site on which Ormeau Branch Library has been built is a delightful one. The building stands in grounds amounting to two-thirds of an acre and overlooks the river Lagan on one side and Ormeau Park on the other. It fronts one of the major roads of Belfast and is in the heart of a big and very pleasant residential district.

The programme given to the architect called for a large open area without pillars or partitions of any kind, to contain an adult and a children's library which would accommodate 8,000 adult books and 2,000 children's books on open access, and with storage accommodation for a further 4,500, combined study and lecture room which could also serve as a reference library, and work-room space, kitchen and staff accommodation for the use of the six assistants comprising the staff. In view of its lovely environs, the window areas of the library were to be as large as was practicable; in fact, the lending library has two glazed areas extending from floor to ceiling and measuring 12 ft. by 40 ft. and 12 ft. by 35 ft.

Mr. H. Swann, City Architect and Mr. D. Cheyne, member of the Architectural Section of the City Surveyor's Department, designed the building and its interior fittings.

Since the site is on land adjacent to a river, its load-carrying capacity is very poor, and a concrete raft resting on piles is used to form the foundation of the building. The walls are brick and the roof consists of white chippings laid on

felt, mounted on strawboard, and supported on timber joists. Where large spans of 30-40 ft. are involved, the timber joists are supported on lattice girders 30 in. deep.

Great attention was paid to the heating apparatus serving this building. The main source of heat for the lending library and the reference room is provided by coiled hot-water pipes embedded in the concrete floor and spaced uniformly throughout the public rooms. Skirting heaters are provided under the windows to take off any chill that might come from the glazed areas. The accommodation used by the staff is heated by radiators. All sources of heat are supplied from a gas boiler, and the temperature throughout the building is controlled by thermostats. Finally, the construction of the roof is designed to give it excellent heat insulating qualities.

The lending library constitutes a rectangle 40 ft. by 38 ft. by 16 ft. high. There are no barriers at the door, and the issue counter, designed to be operated by seated assistants, is sited immediately opposite the entrance. There is also no physical partition between the area of the library used by adults and that used by children, but the roof over the section reserved for children, approximately one-third of the total available space, is lower than that over the adult section. Shelving, 6 ft. 6 in. high, is built round two walls of the room, and the rest of the stock is accommodated in small double-sided island bays, 5 ft. 6 in. high and 5 ft. 6 in. long. Each bay is supported on four tapering steel legs, 18 in. high, thus making the bottom shelf 18 in. from the floor. This gives the appearance of lightness to the book-stacks, facilitates cleaning and supervision, and makes them easily portable. They are constructed of walnut veneered blockboard and ramin. The wood was left its natural colour and lacquered. All decorative items were constructed of satin brass and ebonized beech. The island and wall stacks in the juvenile library are of similar design, but on 15 in. instead of 18 in. legs, with all fittings 5 ft. 3 in. high. The lighting of this main room is supplied by tungsten lamps; those in the adult library are encased in white fittings of a modern design. Fittings in the children's section consist

of five different coloured conical-shaped glass shades.

Since the building is so light and airy, it was felt that bright colours would be appropriate. The floor is covered with a dark rich blue marbled lino background with black feature strips running every 10 ft. An over-all pattern of plain grey and off-white tiles gives added interest. The ceiling is white, the lattice girders supporting it are picked out in light dusty blue, and the walls are painted cactus green. A brilliant lime has been used behind all bookcases to show up the books which, in themselves, give most of the colour to the library. Specially bright patterns have been selected as the binding material for those books which are in stock and have been rebound. Emulsion paint was used on the walls and ceilings.

The reference room has been designed as a multi-purpose room. Its dimensions are 18 ft. by 40 ft. One side consists of a window extending from floor to ceiling and 40 ft. long, which can be covered by a curtain to exclude all light. One wall consists of built-in bookcases with glass fronts, so that if the room is used for a lecture, the books can be secured from theft. The Librarian's Office immediately adjacent to this library is provided with a window so that it can be used as a projector room and a screened cable runs from it to the far end of the room, so that if a music recital or film show is being presented, the amplifier in the projector-room can be connected to loudspeakers without having visible loose wires.

On the wall facing the window there are a series of built-in bookcases running the whole length. They are matt black inside, off-white outside, and have sliding glass doors; a pipe duct caps the fittings and is picked out in lime. The wall above and the end wall behind the portable stage are painted pastel fawn—this acts as a screen for projecting. At the other end of the room the projection window, with sliding glass doors, is framed in off-white and set in the wall, which is papered. The black paper is decorated with various types of foliage in a large tile form—the dark background reducing the apparent length of the room.

Doors are seaweed colour and the floor has the same pattern as the main library, except that the colours are reversed—the background is mottled grey and plain blue, and off-white tiles form the pattern with black lacings at 10 ft. centres. Tubular stackable chairs are used for lectures, etc.—the metal is blue and the seats are resin-bonded ply.

The staff accommodation at the rear consists of a work room, an office, 13 ft. by 16 ft., a staff



Belfast: Ormeau Road Branch

room, 10 ft. by 12 ft., a kitchen adjacent to the staff room, and the usual toilet accommodation necessary for six people.

The colour scheme of the staff quarters is based on a background of standard colours, variations being made by picking out floor patterns in various rooms with different colours—these colours harmonize with wall colours, which again differ from room to room. All ceilings are white and doors seaweed green, which are standard throughout the building. The staff room was papered to give a more homely atmosphere. The floors are covered with plastic tiles.

The general effect of this carefully planned building has been to produce a deceptive air of casualness. It is an open invitation to everyone to enter it. It has no features which are either institutional or in any sense forbidding. It serves a residential district and the layout has been designed to facilitate the family use of the library. Provision has been made outside for perambulators and bicycles, and mothers and their children can use the library with the least inconvenience. The library has been a great success and its average issue for the first five months has been 34,601 per month. The cost of the building was £30,000. This sum includes the internal fittings.

I. A. CRAWLEY

## Dartford

### Ashen Drive Branch

**S**INCE 1952, a small temporary branch library in shop premises has served the residents in the western part of the Dartford borough. It was soon evident, however, that this provision was totally inadequate and with the recent easing of building restrictions, a permanent library has now been

built to replace the temporary one. This new branch library at Ashen Drive, designed by the borough surveyor's staff, was officially opened on 29th July this year by His Worship the Mayor (Councillor F. L. Brown, J.P.).



Dartford: Ashen Drive Branch

In this building, the main walls are constructed of very dark facing bricks, relieved by light buff facings. It has a flat reinforced concrete roof. The entrance hall and display area floors are of white ceramic tiles and the display window (15 ft. by 8 ft.) allows an unimpeded view of the modern display unit designed to show books interspersed with small plants. A floor-to-ceiling black velvet curtain frames this display and divides it from a store room at the rear of the unit. A paved area for cycles and perambulators adjoins the entrance.

Being designed to serve a comparatively small neighbourhood comprising a population of approximately 7,000 people, the accent is on the family unit in this library and no attempt has been made to separate varying age groups into separate departments. One spacious room, 42 ft. by 20 ft., by 11½ ft. high, provides shelf space for a book stock of 11,000 volumes, including a children's section at one end of the room. The service counter is of an unconventional triangular design to take up the minimum of floor space and yet allow ample working space for two assistants.

On one side of the room are four projecting, fully glazed recesses or "browsing bays", fitted with bright red Venetian blinds, where readers can relax in comfortable armchairs at low tables. The ceilings of these recesses are in dark blue emulsion paint and internally most walls are finished with emulsion paint in pastel shades on plaster, with facing brick panels providing an attractive contrast.

The flooring of the main room is of cork tiles, while the floors of the store room, staff room and cloakroom are of black thermoplastic tiles.

Fluorescent lighting is provided in the main room, display unit, and store room, special tungsten fittings being used in the entrance hall and staff room; clerestory lighting and the large windows of the "browsing recesses" provide a high standard of natural lighting. Space heating is provided by built-in, thermostatically-controlled electric convector fires. Excluding the book stock, the total cost of the new library was under £6,000.

At the opening ceremony, the Chairman of the Library Committee (Alderman Sydney Irving, B.Sc.(Econ.), M.P.), expressed the hope that this attractive branch library would be the forerunner of three other branches it is hoped to build to serve other outlying parts of the borough.

S. ATKIN

## Dewsbury

### Dewsbury Moor Branch

THIS branch library replaced a small branch which was opened in a local school in 1936. Since the end of the war, several Corporation housing estates were built in the area with a considerable increase of population to be served. The new branch is centrally placed and is convenient from the point of view of bus stops. It is placed 46 ft. back from the road, and is approached by a flagged path. The grounds have been laid out as a garden in which seats are provided.

The building is of 2 in. sand-faced brick, with a pitched roof of Hardrow concrete slates. The lending library is 45 ft. by 24 ft., and is entered through a vestibule from a covered forecourt. An illuminated case in the vestibule is used for book displays, while notices are shown on a free-standing peg-board panel.

The end of the library facing the road is mainly occupied by a window measuring 15 ft. by 10 ft., constructed of Pilkington's Insulight glass to provide thermal insulation. Clerestory windows are provided along the sides and opposite end of the library.

The stock is accommodated entirely on sloping wall cases.

Heating is entirely by thermostatically-controlled electric tubular heaters above and below the bookcases. A time-switch brings them into use an hour before library opening time, and turns them off an hour before closing time.

Thermal insulation is provided by the ceiling in the lending library being constructed of fibre board with perforated panels at each lighting point to provide a variation in texture; and over the smaller rooms, the roof has been constructed

of 2 in. mattresses of wood wool on pressed steel ribs.

Tables and chairs for twenty persons are provided in the library itself. Stacking chairs are also available for use for meetings held after library hours.

A staff room, work room, and toilet are provided at the end of the building, and there are public toilets along one side.

The timbers used are Burma teak for the main window with a surround of Clear Douglas fir; African walnut for the panelling and frames in the vestibule; Ekhimi herring-bone wood blocks for the floor, and Australian walnut veneer to the bookcases.

Opened, 5th May, 1956; cost, £7,674; population served, approximately 6,000; shelving capacity, 5,400 volumes; main contractors, Messrs. Haywood and Peirson, Dewsbury.

#### *Ravensthorpe Branch*

THE Ravensthorpe Branch Library replaces one which was opened in the local Council Offices in October 1925. A scheme for a new branch had been prepared in 1938, but was not started.

The library forms, in effect, an extension to the former Ravensthorpe Urban District Council Offices and is situated in a pleasant park on the main road running through the district. It is easily accessible from all parts of the area which it serves.

The library has been planned in two storeys with public departments on the ground floor, and book storage and staff accommodation on the first floor. To harmonize with other buildings in the park, all external walls are stone faced.

The main entrance doors are protected by a timber canopy extended on one side to form a shelter for perambulators. The entrance hall itself is dominated by a random stone pier carrying the main roof structure; this and the boldly patterned thermoplastic tiled floor contrast pleasantly with the quieter treatment of the lending library. The effect of lightness is maintained by the staircase formed with mahogany treads carried on two steel strings spanning from ground floor to first floor, and approached from the counter.

From the entrance hall, swing doors give access to the library proper. The adult lending department measures 37 ft. by 29 ft.; the children's section 19 ft. by 12 ft., and there is a small reference alcove 12 ft. by 6 ft. Sloping wall shelving in mahogany is used throughout; the counter is also of mahogany, while the floor is of Ekhimi wood blocks. Chairs and tables for twenty

readers are provided. The ceiling is formed of highlight insulation board panels with recessed lighting fittings.

Good natural lighting is provided by four roof lights with perspex louvres and by high level windows above the bookcases.

A work room, book storage, staff room, toilet and cleaners' stores are provided on the upper floor which extends over the children's section and the entrance hall, leaving a flat roof to the adult library.

Heating throughout the building is by tubular electric heaters controlled by a time-switch and by thermostats. Thermal insulation is provided by the insulation board ceiling in the adult library, and by glass fibre quilt generally.

Opened, 23rd April, 1960; cost, £10,300; population served, approximately 8,000; shelving capacity, 8,000; main contractors, S. Armitage and Sons, Ltd., Dewsbury.

F. W. SMITH

#### *Folkestone*

##### *Wood Avenue Branch*

THE Wood Avenue Branch Library at Folkestone was opened by the Mayor of Folkestone on April 21st. Mr. L. R. McColvin gave an introductory address. The Secretary of the Library Association, Mr. Barry, was also present.

The branch is designed to serve a population of about 10,000 within a mile radius at the eastern end of the town. It completes the library coverage envisaged when the Cheriton Branch Library was opened in 1938. Folkestone spreads almost five miles along the coast, and the two branches, together with the Central Library and a smaller branch at Sandgate, ensure that every resident of the borough lives within 1½ miles of a reasonably complete library service.

The new branch has a number of interesting features. It is planned as a "neighbourhood" library: a service tailor-made to its district as we know it now, but flexible enough to accommodate change. The over-all design is not only to attract borrowers in, but to encourage them to stay as long as possible. The service is essentially a "book service" without frills, but we have had in mind a peaceful retreat from the inevitable distractions in the smaller houses of the district, and an attractive workshop for the student not in need of the fuller service of the more distant central library—not a large library scaled down, but a complete service in itself, fitted to its immediate neighbourhood.



Folkestone: Wood Avenue Branch



We have made full use of a spacious site. The adult library is finely proportioned, 50 ft. by 40 ft. by 17 ft. high, with a great window from floor to ceiling taking almost the whole of its front elevation. The wall shelving is adequate for a total stock of 12,000 volumes. The centre floor space is left free for tables and chairs. Larger easy chairs are grouped with smaller "coffee" tables in the window space. The room accommodates periodicals and will absorb the movement of 60-70 people at one time without disturbing readers unduly. It is separated by movable glass screens from the children's library and the study, with direct access to both.

The children's library is a room 30 ft. square, with wall shelving and central display cases and tables. It contains 3,000 books. Again the whole front elevation consists of a great window. It is separated from the study by a sliding glass screen with direct access to study, entrance hall, and lending library.

One central counter, specially designed to accommodate staff and issue according to volume of use at various times, controls all departments; but children can be diverted directly into their library from the hall at busy periods.

The study is a little unusual. With direct access from adult and children's libraries, it acknowledges no distinctions of age or abilities. Its small stock runs from *Encyclopaedia Britannica* to the *Children's Encyclopaedia*, from the simple introduction to the advanced text. Its stock will take shape from demand and need. It is a homework and information room, not, as the popular press implied in their notices, for merely young school children, but for all students seeking the right atmosphere for work away from the distractions of the small house. It will accommodate 20, but

can be easily extended. We fancy it will mostly be used by G.C.E. level students, sixth-form grammar school students, and younger professional and technical students. Sliding screens allow it to be incorporated into either adult or children's libraries at any time.

Wall shelving, counter and display cases are in Appalachian oak; chairs are metal-framed with foam rubber upholstery.

The building is heated by electric cables embedded in the floors. Temperature is controlled by an external controller with internal thermostats, operating in off-peak periods, 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., with a boost between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., at special off-peak rates. Infra-red heating is provided over the main entrance door, thus forming a heat blanket. If the technical estimates prove reasonably correct, this form of heating, taking into consideration a saving in labour, will be slightly cheaper in running costs than hot-water installations. Ceilings are of Bowater's T/D acoustic panels and the large windows in the front elevation are double-glazed plate glass to prevent heat losses. The floors are finished in thermoplastic tiles. The lighting fittings are of the modular recessed type.

The building was designed by the Borough Engineer, working in close collaboration with the Borough Librarian, and cost £18,000, including furniture, but with no site cost.

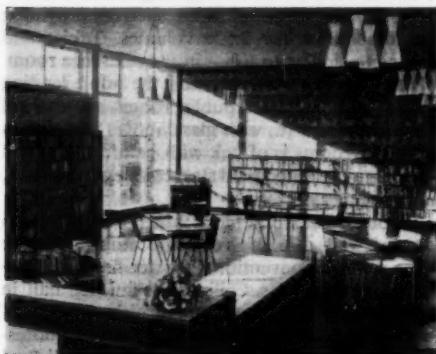
R. HOWARTH

### Gloucestershire County

#### Oldland Parkwall Branch

THIS library is the first of several planned to be built in the County and is situated on a new housing estate of some 1,500 houses, half-way

between Bristol and Bath. It consists, in addition to the usual service rooms, of a one-room library combining children's and adult lending, together with quick reference section, and is open to the public on four days weekly.



Gloucestershire County: Oldland Parkwall Branch

It has a stock of nearly 8,000 volumes, and a staff of one Chartered Librarian and one part-time assistant. The official opening ceremony was performed on 4th July, 1959, by the Chairman of the County Library Sub-Committee, Lt. Col. A. B. L. Lloyd-Baker, D.S.O., T.D.

The building was erected in traditional construction with cavity walls of sand-faced facing bricks and light-weight concrete block inner skin, rolled steel stanchions, and roof trusses with Stramit boards on steel purlins covered with green mineral strip roofing. The windows are purpose-made timber with pivot hung opening lights and the floor of the main hall is cork, with thermoplastic tiles in the entrance hall and workroom. The ceiling of the main hall is constructed with suspended acoustic tiles. The heating to the main hall is underfloor electric heating. The furniture is made of rosewood and Sapele mahogany.

The total estimated cost was £9,000. The building was designed by the County Architect to the requirements of the County Librarian.

E. M. T. MARKWICK

## Lancashire County

NOTES appeared in the June, 1959, RECORD on Lancashire's Rainford branch: this was one of many projects on the Committee's list, but the post-war difficulties with which librarians are

only too familiar had prevented any planned building programme from being put into operation.

Now, however, a programme has been agreed and has begun with a reasonable prospect of progress being made; since the erection of the Rainford branch, four new permanent buildings have been erected, six are in varying stages of construction at the present time, and four are scheduled to begin erection in 1960; thereafter, it is hoped that at least five will be erected each year. Economic crises and financial restriction nationally and locally may, of course, interrupt the programme, but at least at the present, good progress is being made with a reasonable prospect of a steady if not rapid reduction in the County's list of approximately ninety new branches needed.

In addition to the major programme, progress is also being made in the provision of small branches and temporary buildings in a minor building programme. Three small prefabricated timber libraries have been erected, each measuring approximately 24 ft. by 20 ft., housing about 3,000 volumes and designed to serve villages of 1,000-2,000 population; three more are planned for erection this year and next. Three "demountable" timber buildings, double the size of the others, have been completed; they are purely temporary measures in cases where need is urgent and will be removed and re-erected elsewhere as they are replaced by permanent libraries.

Some details are given below of two of the first branches to be completed in the programme. The other two which have been completed, at Eagley (Turton Urban District) and Up Holland, near Wigan, are almost identical with the branch at Rainford (RECORD, June, 1959), with only minor modifications.

### Great Harwood Branch

This is a medium-sized branch library serving a population of 10,700. It also serves as the headquarters of a small library region, and the total staff of nine, including a Regional Children's Librarian, is responsible for three full-time branches, including Great Harwood, and one part-time branch, and for the supervision of libraries in 40 primary schools and 12 secondary schools.

The first library to be built by Lancashire County Council specifically for the purpose was a timber building erected in Great Harwood in 1931 as a temporary measure. In 1938, a suitable central site was purchased, and at that time the local library committee recommended that the erection of a permanent branch library be



Lancashire County: Great Harwood Branch

expedited as a matter of urgency. The permanent library was opened in October, 1959.

Designed by the County Architect in consultation with the County Librarian, the new library provides an adult lending library, a children's room, a reference room, a large staff work room with reasonable bookstack accommodation, office, staff room, and the usual ancillary quarters.

Public entrance is by a foyer, the south wall of which, facing a fairly busy road but set back about 25 yards with intervening lawn and shrubs, is entirely of glass. A settee runs the length of the north wall and the foyer also contains a table and chairs. The inner doors of the foyer lead directly into a corner of the adult lending library; immediately inside the door is the charging desk, controlling access to all public rooms.

The adult lending library, measuring 50 ft. by 30 ft., shelves approximately 9,000 books; shelving is round the walls and in projecting stacks, leaving a wide central corridor between the reference room at the end distant from the entrance and the junior room at the near end. There are high windows on the east wall from above the shelving to the ceiling, and domed roof lights in the western half of the roof.

The reference room, measuring 30 ft. by 20 ft., has two large windows to floor level, and the

remainder of the wall space is shelved. Chairs and tables are of tubular steel construction, the chairs upholstered in washable P.V.C. cloth, and the tables Formica covered; all are finished grey.

The children's room, similar in size to the reference room, has one full-length window and the remainder of the walls are shelved, providing accommodation for 2,500 volumes. Tables and chairs are similar to those in the reference room.

The dividing walls between the adult lending library and the other public rooms are shelved to a height of 4 ft., with glass above. Shelving in all public rooms is of oak with painted softwood bottom rail, painted mild steel cantilever brackets, and tubular steel legs.

Floors are of wood block; the north and south interior walls are of Yorkshire stone, and the other walls of conventional plaster finish decorated in pastel shades. Ceilings are finished half in timber boarding stained and varnished, and half in normal plaster skimming. Lighting is fluorescent; central heating is by conventional oil-fired low pressure furnace, thermostatically controlled, with radiators under the shelving.

Access to the work room is from the adult lending library and the reference room in addition to a staff side entrance. Measuring 44 ft. by 24 ft., this room has two work benches each 12 ft. long and three island bookstacks each 16 ft. long, providing, with wall shelving, accommodation for 10,000 books.

Externally, the library is a bold and imaginative building, with a double monopitch roof sloping in to a central gutter. The front (south) elevation to the road is a pleasing combination of stone, glass and brick; the north elevation is timber cladded with glass above, and the other elevations, which are little seen, are more conventional.

The architect for this library was Mr. G. Noel Hill, F.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I., County Architect, and the contractors were Messrs. Ashworth and Hobson of Rossendale.

#### Ormskirk Regional Library

Lancashire County's largest library so far was opened to the public in January, 1960. It is the Ormskirk Regional Library, which combines the functions of a branch library to serve the township with those of the headquarters of a region. The total staff establishment of the region is sixteen, including the Regional Librarian, his deputy, two senior assistants, and a regional children's librarian. The staff is responsible for manning four full-time branch libraries, including Ormskirk, two part-time branches, and a mobile library, and for the supervision of seven general

centres, fifty school centres in primary schools, and twenty-two school libraries in secondary schools.

The County Library service in Ormskirk began in 1926, with the establishment of a centre in an old fire station open for four hours weekly. In 1939, a shop was rented and adapted and opened on a full-time basis. At the same time, the staff were made responsible for the operation of a newly-erected branch library at neighbouring Maghull and since then the service has gradually been extended until now the region is one of the largest in the County, including four urban districts and the greater part of a large rural district. A mobile library service was inaugurated in 1948 to serve the outlying parts of the region.

The library now completed replaces the temporary premises first occupied in 1939, which had become increasingly inadequate as the region expanded until, of latter years, the situation had become quite desperate, both in respect of accommodation for the public and space for the backroom work of the region.

Designed by Mr. T. Mellor, B.Arch., A.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I., in consultation with the County Architect and County Librarian, the new library provides an adult lending library, a reference library, and children's library, together with a stack and work room, the usual offices and staff rooms, and a garage.

The site is a sloping one and public entrance is by a ramp to a small entrance hall, containing a large display board and an illuminated display case. The entrance and exit doors to and from the hall lead directly to the charging desk and from there to all three public rooms. Beyond the charging desk is an open space containing the catalogue and planned also to have a readers' adviser's desk with the necessary bibliographical aids. There is, additionally, room for free-standing displays intended to be provided occasionally rather than as a permanent feature.

The adult lending library accommodates approximately 18,000 books in wall and island shelving. One long wall is glass from floor to ceiling, the remainder having high windows over shelving. The room, including the charging desk area, measures 77 ft. by 40 ft., and the size of roof span necessitated a row of pillars down the length of the library which have been incorporated into the shelving.

The reference library, 43 ft. by 39 ft. overall, is unusual in that the centre portion is a small courtyard measuring 26 ft. by 13 ft., with all sides glass to floor level. Doors to the courtyard are provided, and the brick-paved area has metal

chairs and table available for readers who prefer to sit outdoors. Shelving is all round the outer walls of the reference library and an illuminated periodical rack is provided.

The children's library immediately on the right of the public entrance is 44 ft. by 22 ft., and wall and projecting shelving for 5,000 books is installed. There is sufficient open floor space to allow school classes to be accommodated, and stacking chairs, stored elsewhere when not in use, are available. The partition between adult lending and children's libraries is of timber to 3 ft. and glass above.

The work room, 50 ft. by 19 ft., contains a large work-bench at each end of the room and island shelving between, housing about 10,000 books. One end of the room is used for school library pool stock, the other for general purposes. Lighting is by fluorescent tubes.

The garage will accommodate two mobile libraries. Only one is at present operated from Ormskirk, but it is hoped that another will be added in the not too distant future. An inspection pit, central heating, battery-charging facilities, and a work-bench are provided.

Tables and chairs in the public rooms are of tubular steel, the tables with Formica tops and the chairs upholstered in washable P.V.C. cloths of various colours. Shelving is of oak with mild steel supports. Lighting is by tungsten lamps with attractive opaque white shades. Floors are of wood block. Heating is by conventional oil-fired low pressure furnace, thermostatically controlled, with radiators under the shelving. This will, in fact, probably be the last of the large branches in Lancashire County to have radiators, and new libraries in the near future will normally have forced hot air systems and, in one library at least, it is hoped that under-floor heating is to be installed.

The structure is of brick and glass with steel framework. The whole of the east wall is glass to floor level broken only by the entrance ramp and is a striking advertisement, particularly during the hours of darkness. The main contractors were Messrs. W. J. Bickerstaff and Sons, Ltd., of Wigan.

A. DONNELLY

## Nottingham

### *Wilford Temporary Branch*

IN July, 1959, another branch library was added to the growing number of such libraries built in Nottingham since the end of the war. This was a temporary branch built to replace a service

point housed since 1952 in unsatisfactory surroundings, viz., a small room leading off a parish hall. Service in this room was necessarily limited, and only amounted to eight hours a week.

The district served on the south side of the Trent is a considerable distance from the main city libraries and city centre, and has grown greatly in the last few years, so that better provision was urgently required. It was decided to bridge the waiting period until a permanent branch could be erected with a temporary structure which could be moved and re-used on another site when necessary. Chief needs in planning this branch were speedy construction and spaciousness of design, consonant with low cost. Hence a timber building of good quality and simple attractive design was selected as being the most appropriate to fill this particular need. Supplied and erected by a local builder, the building is of prefabricated sections 6 ft. 5 in. wide, bolted together, fixed externally with cedar boarding, and lined internally with  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. plywood. The floor is in sections of boarding covered with linoleum. Heating is supplied by means of three 3 kw. G.E.C. industrial fan heaters. The bookcases are of panama pine. In a space of 32 ft. by 25 ft., room is provided for an adult and junior library with a small staff room and lavatory accommodation.

The effect is spacious and light, since fenestration is provided along two sides of the almost square building. A small lobby provides a draught-free entrance. Care has been taken to site the building at a crossroads, which is the equivalent of the early village green for this parish, an area which has since been considerably enlarged all around this nucleus. Bookshelves are arranged round the two sides not containing windows to a height of 5 ft. 6 in., and free-standing bookcases are arranged without any rigid pattern throughout the library. Book stock is 5,000 books. The total cost of the building, including site preparation and bookcases but exclusive of site, was £2,300.

F. C. TIGHE

### *St. Albans*

#### *Fleetville Branch*

THE first branch library to be built by the St. Albans City Council was officially opened by the Rt. Hon. The Earl Spencer, T.D., F.S.A., F.R.S.A., on 22nd October, 1959. It replaced a mobile service, which had operated in the area since 1947.

It was designed by the City Engineer and



St. Albans: Fleetville Branch

Surveyor, Mr. A. S. Moody, A.M.I.C.E., M.Inst.M.E., A.M.T.P.I., and members of his staff, in consultation with the City Librarian, and erected for the City Council by Messrs. Dunham, Builders, Ltd., of St. Albans. It is a single-storey brick structure, with flat roof, comprising:

Entrance lobby	10 ft. by 13 ft.
Library (less entrance lobby)	43 ft. by 43 ft.
Staff room	10 ft. by 10 ft.
Workroom and store	13 ft. by 15 ft.
Cloakroom	10 ft. by 4½ ft.
Staff: entrance, cupboards, meters, etc.	23 ft. by 4½ ft.
With a storey height	10½ ft.
Total floor area	2,300 sq. ft.

Large windows, glazed with clear glass, were used on the street elevation to enable passers-by to see into the library from the pavement.

The small entrance lobby is paved in grey terrazzo. One wall is painted in daffodil yellow with a fitted display case, the other two walls being glazed partitions forming an entrance and exit into the main department.

This is designed on an open plan, comprising adult and junior sections separated by low island bookstacks and with a total floor area of 1,840 sq. ft.

Two silver-grey walls and the rich brown of the African hardwood floor and bookstacks provide a pleasing background for the book stock. Wall-paper in a modern French design on the remaining wall introduces a colourful note.

The fibre glass chairs are in elephant grey and sea foam; the small tables and the counter top are finished with charcoal and white mottled perstorp. A walnut slatted window seat and two easy chairs upholstered in flame coloured vinyl fabric complete the furnishings of this room.

To minimize noise, timber was used throughout on the floors (Banga Wanga wood blocks), and the ceilings are lined with Bowater thermal acoustic panels and perspex lay lights provide permanent ventilation. Artificial lighting was provided by G.V.D. Illuminators.

The small staff room is equipped with a Formica-topped locker and cupboard unit and table, and a Belling electric cooker. Comfortable chairs are also provided. Dark red curtains contrast pleasantly with primrose and grey walls and the deep blue paint on the doors.

The building is heated by under-floor heating installed by the Simplex Electric Co., Ltd. Creda space heaters are available for use during the day, if required.

In order to provide a maximum floor space free of structural members, Trosdec roofing was used which, with a 12 in. depth of section, gave spans up to 24 ft., thus only one central support in the library was needed, the external brick walls supporting the remainder of the roof. Agba hardwood, French polished and varnished, was used on the external window and door frames. Chesham multi-bricks were used on the outside and Portland stone for the window surrounds and coping. Sapele mahogany was used for the internal joinery.

The total cost was £10,000 (£8,250 for the building contract, £1,750 for the furniture and fittings).

The initial book stock of 6,000 will be increased to 10,000 by the end of this year.

M. WILSON

## *Southend*

### *Westcliff Branch*

THE provision of library facilities in the County Borough began with the erection of a Central Library in Victoria Avenue in 1906. After the inclusion of Leigh-on-Sea in the Borough, a branch library to serve the Leigh area was provided by the adaptation of the Old Rectory in what is now Broadway West in 1928. Meanwhile, however, the district lying between these two main centres of population was being rapidly developed, and it was clear that sooner or later it would be necessary to provide library facilities at some point roughly equidistant from the Central Library and Leigh Branch Library to serve the thickly populated area lying on both sides of the London Road between the beginning of Leigh Road and Hamlet Court Road. Such a site was provided fortuitously by enemy action during the late war at the junction of Fleetwood Avenue with the north side of London Road,

roughly one mile from the Central Library and rather more than that distance from Leigh Branch Library.

At the conclusion of hostilities in 1945, the priority accorded to other categories of building precluded any start being made with the implementation of the Committee's proposals, and it was not until some 10 years after the war that the erection of a library began to assume the aspect of a realizable proposition. In the interim, various tentative schemes had been mooted, but in 1956 the Borough Architect was instructed to prepare an entirely new scheme. Further delays occurred due to financial stringency, and it was not till late in 1958 that tenders were invited.



*Southend: Westcliff Branch*

The site has frontages to London Road and Fleetwood Avenue and a footway has been left on the north side to give access to the rear of the building for unloading goods. The main entrance is from London Road flanked on the west by a paved forecourt and on the east by a public cycle park enclosed by a screen wall.

The building comprises adult and junior libraries, entrance hall, work room, staff rest room and ancillary accommodation. There is shelving accommodation in the adult library for about 9,500 books and in the junior library for about 3,500, making a total shelving capacity for approximately 13,000 books.

The adult library is on the main axis of the plan, running east and west, and is expressed on the elevations by a greater height and a different

treatment of the roof from that of the adjoining "aisles", which accommodate the junior library on the south and adult shelving and reference area on the north. The latter gives access to a public garden, which may be regarded as an open-air extension of the library, as it can only be approached from the interior.

The building has been carefully planned with a view to economy in staffing, while at the same time avoiding any disturbance of the adult library by children, or the necessity for adults to enter the junior section. The main issue desk has, therefore, been planned to serve both sections. Lighting, heating and ventilation are all controlled from this desk.

Considerable thought has been given to the design of the interior, and especially the furniture and fittings. The junior section has received special attention in this respect to ensure the comfort of the children using the library. The necessity to minimize noise has led to the provision of cork tiles on the floors and acoustic tiles on the ceilings.

Glazing from floor to ceiling increases the sense of spaciousness within the building, and at the same time visually links the external and internal reading areas. On the south front the same treatment, together with the deliberate continuation of the screen wall into the entrance hall, offers a psychological invitation to enter. The risk of glare on the south side is met by the generous overhang of the flat roof over the junior library, which also provides protection for a queueing area.

The spacious work room, staff rest room and ancillary accommodation, with their separate entrance, are grouped at the east end of the building.

L. HELLIWELL

## *Scratlincote*

### *New Public Library*

THE new Public Library, built to replace a Carnegie building damaged by mining subsidence, was opened on 26th March, by the Chairman of the U.D.C., Councillor W. H. Whitehead.

The building is of brick with artificial stone surround and is part of a new central development scheme for the council and was designed by William Blair, B.Arch., A.R.I.B.A., of Derby, from a brief of requirements prepared by the librarian. The architect in charge was Mr. D. J. Montague, A.R.I.B.A.

The building faces the omnibus station, and the site has a sharp fall towards the front entrance area; a design was created to take full advantage

of the differences in level, so as to form an interesting internal spatial content.

The building covers an area 76 ft. 9 in. by 46 ft. 9 in., and provides entrance hall with porch, reference room, local collection and magazine room, adult library, children's library, administrative rooms, staff accommodation, and stock room.

The entrance hall and porch cover an area 20 ft. 9 in. by 17 ft. 9 in., and are flanked by the reference and local collection rooms, each 14 ft. 6 in. by 11 ft.

From the entrance, steps on either flank lead up into the main library which is approximately 46 ft. by 44 ft., with shelving arranged around three walls, and to form alcoves on the north and south walls. The space in the centre is occupied by tables and chairs and the card index cabinet. It will also be used for future stock expansion in island stacks.

Alongside the north and south walls, steps lead down to the rooms flanking the entrance hall, and adjacent to these steps are others leading up to the mezzanine floor on which are the librarian's office, some 11 ft. by 14 ft. 6 in., and the children's library, 33 ft. by 14 ft. 6 in., where the shelving is arranged around the walls and the centre space is used for tables and chairs.

At the opposite end of the main library are staff toilets, staff room, work room, and cleaning cupboard. The staff room is 10 ft. 6 in. by 7 ft. 6 in., and contains a stainless steel sink unit, Creda cooker, Sadia hot water heater, high level cupboard along one wall, table, and chairs.

The work room is 15 ft. by 11 ft., with wall shelving on three sides, and a large work top on the fourth side underneath the windows.

The cleaning cupboard, approximately 7 ft. by 7 ft., also houses the electricity meters, and a spiral staircase which leads to the stock room over this administrative area, which is 6 ft. high and 44 ft. long.

The building is naturally lighted from small windows running in a continuous band at ceiling height, and from twelve large roof lights. Artificial lighting in public rooms and librarian's office is by fluorescent lighting, and in other parts of the building, ordinary lighting points are used.

Electric underfloor heating is provided in all the rooms and is extended on to the front step.

All the shelving and the counter were designed by the architect in consultation with the librarian, and have been finished in Iroko wood.

The floor is covered in lino tiles, and a white ceiling reflects the orange colour of the tiles in the main library.

Finishes generally are austere as it was felt that the colour and variety of the books on display, coupled with the movement of people within the building, would require a neutral background to maintain a balance.

The total cost of the building, including under-floor heating, and lighting, was £13,921 10s. 3d., and for the furniture and fittings, £1,851 7s. 10d., resulting in a figure of 70s. 1d. per sq. ft. of floor area (4,500 ft. super).

Work started on the site on 3rd March, 1959, and was carried out by a local firm, Messrs. H. S. Waterfield Ltd., who also made the counter, shelving, and special fittings.

H. COLLIER

## Worthing

### *Findon Valley Branch*

FEW library buildings can have given rise to as many wild speculations and doubtful head-shakings as the recently opened branch at Findon Valley, Worthing. Its octagonal shape, the erection of the roof before the walls were built, the wooden boxed-ply supports framing, alternately, large windows and tile-hung walls, caused innumerable guesses as to its purpose, from bandstand to bus shelter!

A part-time centre had been provided in the Findon Valley for nine years, but satisfactory premises for such a service had been difficult to find. However, in anticipation of development of the area, the Library Committee some years earlier had purchased an excellent site, and it was decided that a new building was the most satisfactory solution, despite the fact that the population to be served was still under 5,000, and that the highest issue achieved from a part-time service was 35,000.

The building was required to house a book stock of 6,750 on the shelves, or a total stock of around 10,000 volumes, with an anticipated annual issue of 70,000 to 100,000 and a staff of Branch Librarian with occasional help as required. A small selection of magazines (but no newspapers) was to be provided, and three tables had to be accommodated for their perusal. Moreover, efficient oversight from the counter was necessary, and the "open-view" principle had to be incorporated in the design, allowing passers-by to see easily into the building and giving readers a pleasant view through large windows.

The plans, prepared by the Chief Architect for the Borough, Mr. C. J. Sandeman, A.R.I.B.A., were submitted to the Library Committee and subsequently approved. They provided a floor

area of 1,280 sq. ft. for the main hall, 144 sq. ft. for the glazed entrance lobby, and a further 180 sq. ft. for staff room, toilet accommodation and store room—a total of 1,604 sq. ft.

Work commenced in the spring of 1959, and the building was handed over on October 13th. Transfer of stock from the Central Library and part-time centre, and all the final preparations were completed in less than a week. The new building was opened officially by the Mayor of Worthing on Saturday, October 17th.



Worthing: Findon Valley Branch

Books are accommodated on wall shelving and six low island cases made in Iroko, the counter and a specially-designed catalogue and magazine rack being in African walnut and sycamore. The floor finishes consist of Iroko wood blocks in the library, floor tiles in the entrance lobby, and Semflex vinyl tiles in the staff rooms. Heating is by the Florawarm underfloor electrical heating system, designed to run during "off-peak" periods and to combine comfort with low initial and running costs. Within a few weeks of opening, satisfactory settings for thermostats and time-switch were determined and the results have been excellent. Heating costs for the period September, 1959, to February, 1960, were £2 12s. 0d. per week.

The assistant in charge of the project was Mr. A. M. Kerry, and the general contractor was Field Place (Builders) Ltd. Mrs. H. Cousins was appointed as Branch Librarian, and the response from the public exceeded all expectations. Issues are now more than 2,000 per week, a surprisingly high figure having regard to the population served. The contract price for the building, excluding land and movable furniture but including counter and bookcases, was £10,585. L. M. BICKERTON

## London Pride

*Although there are new buildings going up all over London, it is unlikely that the opportunity to report and contrast two newly-opened, neighbouring, important central libraries will occur again for a long time. Both Kensington and Holborn will remain places of pilgrimage for visiting librarians for years to come. In this feature we are offering to our readers the notes provided by each Authority at the press pre-views, and the thoughts of the Editor who was invited to them.*

### Holborn-fact

THE new Holborn Central Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, W.C.1, which opened to the public on August 15th, has taken 22 months to build at a cost of £250,000. Its design and services incorporate some completely new ideas.

The library site is part of an area cleared after war damage, having a main frontage to Theobalds Road and flanked on both sides by party walls of existing buildings. The structure is of reinforced concrete and consists of four storeys and a lower ground floor, with a total floor area of 39,500 sq. ft. The front wall is non-load-bearing and is cantilevered out from the first row of internal columns. This constructional feature has been the means of introducing an interesting profile to the ceilings of the rooms on each floor.

At the rear of the building there is a minor frontage to John's Mews where Holborn Council own other property including an Assembly Hall. One of the most difficult planning problems in the construction of the library was the necessity for providing access through the library entrance in Theobalds Road at any time to this Assembly Hall.

Another controlling feature was the Town Planning Condition limiting the height of the new building to conform with that of the adjoining properties, and the shape, size and height of the building generally has been strictly controlled by the application of the Day Lighting Code. This was the reason for stepping the rear elevations.

It was these various restrictions and the extent of the accommodation required that made it necessary to plan the library as a multi-storey building quite unlike any of the more usual types of central libraries.

There are two lifts and a staircase to all floors for public use, an emergency staircase, and two book hoists.

Also, to meet the changing needs of the library service, it has been designed to achieve maximum flexibility—partitions are of the demountable type and space heating has been provided by an electrical system embedded in the floors so as to

free completely the floor space from fixed engineering services, radiators and pipes.

All the principal rooms except the library hall, which has teak blocks, have lino floor tiles, plastered walls and acoustic tiled ceilings.

The main staircase is lined with Formica panels and has teak treads. Lift surrounds are of mahogany.

The situation of the various library services is as follows:—

*Lower ground floor:* children's library and theatre; periodicals reading room; archive strong rooms; lending library stack room.

*Ground floor and gallery:* adult lending library.

*First floor:* reference library; commercial library; study carrels and local collection room.

*Second floor:* gramophone record library; administrative offices; work rooms; book bindery; reference library stack room and staff accommodation.

*Third floor:* library hall; exhibition space for the Council's permanent picture lending scheme.

The large entrance hall has illuminated display cases on one wall. Opposite, it is divided from the interior garden in the lending library by a plate glass screen. Engraved in the plaster wall surface are the names of some of those connected with the building of the library, including the names of representative workmen who had a major hand in the erection of the building.

*Children's Library.*—From the hall a staircase leads down to the lower ground floor. The children's library has a stock of over 5,000 volumes offering a wide selection to children of all ages. It also contains a collection of reference books, children's periodicals and magazines.

A special feature of this room is the built-in aquaria. Colour is also provided by the upholstered stools which supplement the chairs and tables.

There is a small attractively decorated theatre for the story-telling hours and other special activities organized by the Children's Librarian.

Cloakroom accommodation is provided for the children.

At the foot of the stairs to the children's library there is a foyer which can be used for small exhibitions.

*Periodicals Room.*—Adjoining the children's library, but with a separate entrance, is the periodicals room, which has 34 newspapers and 81 periodicals displayed, including the more recent back numbers.

The treatment of this department is unusual and a determined effort has been made to break away from the institutional atmosphere often found in reading rooms. There are comfortable chairs, tables, and special display fittings.

*Archives.*—Completing the accommodation on the lower ground floor are the strong rooms for the Council's archives, where due regard has been given to effective temperature, humidity and dust control; and the lending library stack room holding 25,000 books.

*Lending Library.*—The adult lending library on the ground floor is approximately 90 ft. long and 50 ft. wide. A gallery houses the fine arts, music and literature collections, and doubles the shelving capacity of the ground floor. Altogether provision is made for 45,000 volumes on the open shelves, with the further 25,000 in the lower ground floor stack room. The control counter is outside the main lending library in the circulation space leading to the lifts and staircase. It incorporates two automatic key punches used in the punched card charging system for control and record of book issues, introduced in the East Holborn Library in April 1958, and which successively eliminated the long queues that previously formed daily at lunch times at the entrance counter.

The bookcases were specially designed by the Borough Architect and incorporate a special type of shelf fitting, the first to be installed in a public library.

Each bookcase has its own fluorescent light fitting built-in and the fascia board provides the tier-guide. These are in raised plastic lettering which is used throughout the building. The horizontal line is emphasized by means of a special white plastic fitting which also includes the shelf subject guide.

Easy chairs and low tables are provided to encourage readers to take their time over selection. The Readers' Adviser desk and the card catalogues, again specially designed, are centrally situated. It is intended to offer a full advisory service to readers by Chartered Librarians at all times.

*Reference Library Services.*—The reference library services occupy the whole of the first floor and the accommodation is increased by means of "split-level" planning.

At the entrance is a photo electric cell apparatus which automatically records the number of people using the reference services.

The collection of 2,000 British and foreign directories, annuals and encyclopaedias is sited near the entrance so that the noisier traffic of quick reference and directory enquiries is dealt with before entering the main reference library.

The main reference library is 120 ft. long and 50 ft. wide, and is double-glazed from floor to ceiling on the south side which overlooks Gray's Inn Gardens and Theobalds Road. Nylon curtains are fitted to these windows and operated by a mechanical control.

Alcoves are formed by means of three-tier double-sided bookcases at 15 ft. centres and in each of the seven alcoves are three individual study tables, designed by the Borough Architect, each with its own lamp.

In the centre of the room are a further 52 individual study tables. The area around the desks is carpeted to reduce noise.

The wall shelving, together with the island bookcases, accommodates 10,000 volumes, and there is provision for 25,000 books in the stack room immediately above.

There are nine special study carrels for students engaged in prolonged research and all are fitted with tables and desk lamp.

The commercial library is at a lower level in the north-east corner and accommodates 24 readers. There are 3,000 volumes on the open shelves and also displayed is a wide selection of commercial periodicals, industrial and business house magazines, totalling 105.

Finally, on this floor, there is a local collection room, which includes a plan file for the library's collection of prints, water-colour drawings, photographs and maps.

A centrally-placed counter controls all departments of the reference services which afford together a total seating capacity of over 120. The equipment available to meet public requirements includes a microfilm reader and a photo-copying machine.

*Gramophone Record Library.*—The gramophone record library on the second floor has a selection of classical music available to clubs, groups and societies meeting within the Borough of Holborn.

It contains some 3,500 records (78 r.p.m.), 1,000 long-playing records, and a nucleus collec-

tion of stereophonic discs. A cubicle is provided so that borrowers may try out records and to enable the staff to check apparent damage.

There is also a specially designed fitting to display the "sleeves" of all long-playing records available for loan and a collection of books to help readers select records and compile grammaries.

Language instruction courses on gramophone records are available in French, German, Italian, Norwegian, Russian and Spanish, as well as in English for foreign students.

The remainder of this floor is devoted to the administrative offices, work rooms, book-bindery, reference library stack room and staff accommodation.

*Library hall.*—The library hall is on the third floor. In order to achieve an increased span on this floor, the building construction was changed to structural steel Portal frames. The hall will seat audiences of up to 250 people for lectures, meetings of the Film Society, etc., but for gramophone recitals and meetings of smaller gatherings requiring a more intimate atmosphere, the room can be reduced to the required size by the operation of a mechanical screen with folding wings. This specially designed screen is a steel structure, acoustically treated on one side.

The equipment provided includes a stereophonic reproducer with a 15 in. speaker built in on each side of the stage, the latest type 16 mm. sound film projector and a transparency projector, housed in the projection room.

There are also cloakroom facilities, a lecturer's retiring room, and a tea bar for use in connection with the various activities. The walls flanking the hall on the north and south sides are completely glazed and fitted with french windows leading on to terraces which the public may use during intervals.

Also on this floor is the exhibition space which is also used as a lounge for those attending functions in the hall. There is a permanent display of paintings and drawings by Holborn artists, forming part of the picture lending scheme. Under this scheme, pictures can be hired for 10s. for three months, or purchased.

### *Holborn—comment*

THIS library puts British design on the level of all that is best in post-war continental library building. It is a librarian's library, which an architect of brilliant parts has interpreted magnificently. From the moment one sets foot inside its elegant door, one progresses through a sequence of

dreams-come-true. This is the sort of library we have been going abroad to see, and the envy aroused by the freshness of German and Scandinavian libraries falls away. We now have our own show-piece, owing nothing beyond their challenge, to the continentals, providing something which we can show with pride to our visitors. It in itself is now a challenge to its British successors.

Despite the fact that its main entrance is also a public thoroughfare to something quite different, from this point one is left in no doubt that the purpose of the building has to do with books. They are to be seen all round, inviting and beckoning; the visitor is brought into personal contact with them immediately. Despite the spaciousness, an atmosphere of intimacy has been achieved in the lending library, by the use of a fairly low ceiling, and the broad gallery which has been built to lead the user on and up to an easily-seen and inviting looking book stock. The first criticism comes here—why has the catalogue been situated so far away from the enquiry desk? If this is found in practice to be a fault, it is one that can be put right easily, for the flexible open plan allows for the redistribution of stock, staff and fittings, without difficulty.

The restricted site presented many difficult planning problems, most of which have been solved—proof of this being that the visitor is not conscious of them having *had* to be solved. The siting of the children's library in the basement seems to be an instance of having to make the best of a difficult problem without actually solving it, and this library itself does not give quite the same glow of pleasure as one gets from the main library upstairs.

All round, as one moves from floor to floor, there is evidence of loving attention having been given to detail, to door handles, to directional notices, to colour and materials. One feels, for example, that it is not only due to site difficulties that, on the first floor, the commercial library is on a different level from the reference library, or that the line of study carrels is approached from stairs, for interest is aroused by these varying levels, and this is good for its own sake. On the second and third floors, too, one is given the same sort of incentive to move on to see what new sight awaits around the corner. No doubt the administrative and working quarters would have been nearer street level if that had been possible. As they are not, it has been seen to that access by lift and stair is obvious and easy, and that the working conditions are such as to ensure an even flow. Holborn as a staff recruiting centre will have the edge of most of its less glamorous

neighbours for years to come. The third floor hall, available for hiring to Holborn societies as well as for use by the libraries themselves, abounds with good ideas and up-to-the-minute apparatus, and it is a delight to come, at the end of the tour, to the ingenious exhibition area and the tea bar.

The final impressions were of a friendly and

stimulating library, where books were to be found in a setting, interesting but unobtrusive. One felt that throughout the preparatory stages there had been an architect who listened with understanding to a librarian who knew that his real job was to get books to readers, and that the result of this understanding was—a library.

## Kensington-fact

THE New Central Library, which was opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother on 13th July, 1960, may be considered as a noteworthy addition to the public libraries of the country. The building has been designed by Mr. E. Vincent Harris, O.B.E., R.A., LL.D., who is well known for his work at Bristol, Manchester, Exeter and Whitehall.

The new building is the largest municipal library in the London area. It occupies part of an area of land owned by the Council. The south front abuts on Phillimore Walk, but as it was designed as the first building of a scheme for a complete Civic Centre, the main entrances are on the north front, which will eventually look over lawns to the projected Municipal Offices. The exterior of the library is constructed in red brick and stone, with massive brick and stone porches at the east and west ends of the north front. Two large pieces of sculpture are mounted in decorated roundels over the doors in the porches. These are the work of Mr. William McMillan, R.A., and appropriately depict Chaucer and Caxton. Mr. McMillan also executed the more obvious features of decoration—the large gilded statue on the north side of the roof balustrade, and lion and unicorn mounted on high stone pillars on the south front.

The building consists basically of a central block, 130 ft. long by 60 ft. wide, with wings on the east and west ends each 30 ft. across and varying between 75 ft. and 100 ft. in length from north to south. A broad stone and asphalt walk extends across the entire north front, from Campden Hill Road to Hornton Street, via the sides of the great arches. Outside seats are here affixed in stone alcoves, and mothers with young children may safely leave them within the protection of the arches. A lawn extends the whole length of the building beyond the stone walk. Sloping drives are built on each side of the building to provide access to the electrical and engineering installations, and to serve also as accommodation for delivery and staff vehicles. A broad walk lies immediately against the south

front, and beyond are large stone-enclosed flower-beds abutting on Phillimore Walk.

*Access and communications.*—There are two main entrances on the north front. That on the west serves as entry to the junior library and the lecture theatre; that on the east to the adult lending and reference libraries and to the music and records department. Two smaller entrances on the south front are for staff and administrative use. There are two main staircases on the north side, two staff staircases on the south, and shorter steel staircases in the centre of the lower floors affording access to the bookstacks. Two automatic electric lifts are provided at the east and west ends of the south side of the building. Each will carry six or seven passengers, and will also serve for upward movement of daily returned books. An electric booklift runs between the cataloguing area and the bookstacks. Very full telephonic communication has been installed, with a large G.P.O. switchboard and an automatic internal exchange. Loudspeakers are installed in the bookstacks in addition to telephones in order to overcome the absorption of sound by books.

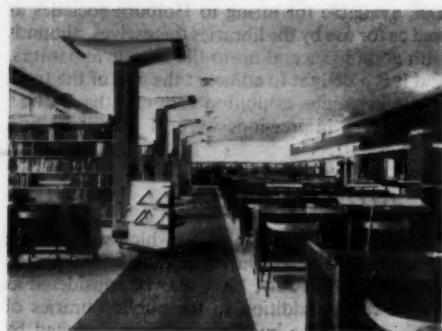
*Heating, ventilation, lighting, power.*—The source of heat is an electrode boiler, feeding to large storage tanks which discharge hot water at low pressure. A novel feature is the Frenger system of aluminium ceiling panels which provide convection heating over all the public rooms. A large ventilating plant forces in filtered air (warmed in winter) and exhausts stale air. Artificial lighting of a very high standard has been provided, utilizing both direct and reflected light in the public rooms. Most of the lighting comes from tungsten bulbs, but there is a certain amount of fluorescent lighting in vestibules in the public rooms and in the lecture theatre. The bookstacks are well lit, with individual aisle switching. An ample number of power points are provided for use with various machines and library equipment, and for cleaning apparatus.

*Book storage accommodation.*—The building has two large basement storage areas, and additional stack space on the lower ground floor. Eventual storage will provide for 500,000 volumes, but the type of shelving used could be adapted to increase

## Reference

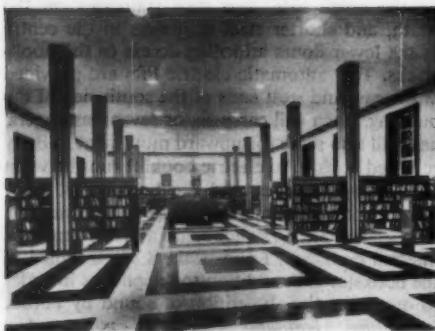


Kensington



Holborn

## Lending



Kensington



Holborn

this number considerably if required. The ultimate capacity of the whole building will be about 600,000 volumes.

*Lower basement.*—Part only of the lower basement is being used for storage at present. Further shelving will be erected when necessary.

*Basement.*—The centre part of the basement is shelved with steel stacks holding about 100,000 volumes. The east wing of this basement, which is also provided with steel stacks, is cut off with heavy fire-proof doors to comply with regulations concerning archives, as the library is designated as a manorial depository by the Lord Chancellor. The Borough Council has long awaited the opportunity to equip the library with modern technical equipment, and has consequently provided, in the west wing of this floor, a photographic room equipped with full facilities for micro-filming and other means of photo-copying, together with the equipment for making micro-tape cards.

*Lower ground floor.*—The west wing of this floor contains a lecture theatre for 165 people, with projection room, a platform which can be extended to a stage by opening sliding doors, and a meeting room with a small kitchen attached with facilities for providing light refreshment. The lecture theatre is panelled in walnut veneers, carpeted throughout, and provided with full cinema-type seating, a "midnight-blue" acoustically-tiled ceiling, indirect lighting, and facilities for light and sound projection. The vestibule to the lecture theatre is also carpeted and is suitably furnished and decorated.

The centre of this floor is shelved to provide accommodation for about 30,000 volumes, and on the north and south of the centre are the various administrative offices, cataloguing area, cataloguing machine room, and an enquiry office and telephone exchange.

The east wing contains a workroom with

Children's

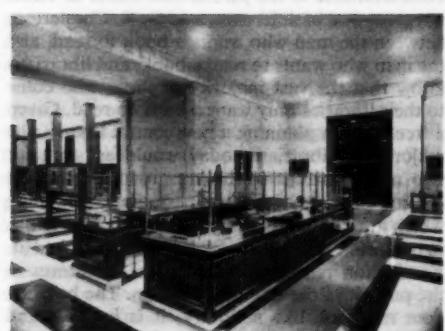


Kensington

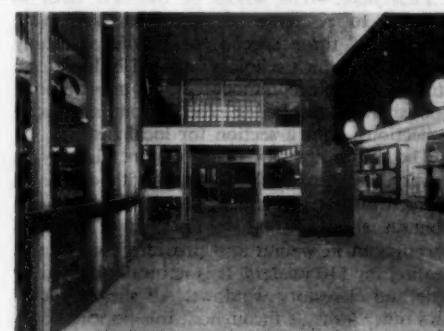


Holborn

Entrances



Kensington



Holborn

equipment for repairs and simple binding, a "book delivery area" and sorting space, and the Chief Librarian's office suite.

*Upper ground floor.*—The west wing of this floor is entered from the north-west main entrance. The wing is lined throughout with Doubling stone, and contains a modern children's library holding 5,000-6,000 volumes, with reference facilities for young students and shelves for very young children. Illuminated showcases are built into the walls. The furniture is constructed of brass inlaid Ghana mahogany, with cork display panels running the whole length of the shelves. Window seats are provided, as well as tables and chairs in the reference section.

A gramophone record and music library is at present located in the vestibule between the children's library and the adult lending library. It is suitably furnished and equipped, with an acoustic booth and other devices, and will provide accommodation at present for 6,000

records. Storage accommodation for additional records is provided elsewhere.

The entire centre of this floor is occupied by the large adult lending library, which is 100 ft. long, 60 ft. wide and 20 ft. high. It is designed to hold 25,000-30,000 volumes. The bookcases here are also made of brass inlaid Ghana mahogany, brought up from the floor to obviate bending and crouching. The walls are covered with acoustic tiles, and a magnificent applied gold and black gloss cornice runs along the top of the walls. The decorated supporting columns are a notable feature. At the foot of the 13 ft. high windows, seats are built in to avoid unnecessary clutter on the floor. A specially made unit, incorporating catalogues, shelves and desks, stands at the centre, to provide on-the-spot assistance for readers.

The east entrance hall is also lined with Doubling stone, and illuminated display cases are also built in here. The finely-carved inscription from Proverbs 4 will be noticed above the entrance to

the staircase. The main purpose of this hall is to deal with the return and issue of books, and a large service fitment, constructed of mahogany, mounted on marble, and enclosed by glass in silver-bronze screens, stands in the centre. The fitment includes a small office area, for the reception and registration of readers, and incorporates a novel form of return counter, with means of immediately disposing of returned books by a chute which falls to the book delivery area on the floor below. Much thought has been expended here on efficient service and the health and comfort of the staff.

At the south end of this hall, behind clear glass screens, decorated with gold leaf, is a large office divided between the readers advisory service and the lending library office.

*First floor.*—The whole of the first floor is devoted to reference service. The west wing consists of three special, or privileged, study sections, in which scholars engaged in long-term studies will be accommodated in comfort among bookshelves displaying the library's special collections, with a section for local history.

The centre area, or main reference library, is a very fine room, 100 ft. long, with each side divided into large alcoves, and it is designed to contain about 30,000 volumes. It is panelled throughout in walnut and provides comfortable seating for 110 readers. It is naturally lighted by side and clerestory windows. All shelves, desks and other fitments throughout this floor are constructed of walnut, with Formica wearing surfaces where required. Facilities for micro-film viewers and other up-to-date devices are provided, and a specially designed service counter, with built-in fitments, stands in a vestibule at the east end of the room.

The east wing contains a periodicals room and additional reference services, and may eventually become a business or commercial reference section. The south end of this wing contains a large suitably equipped reference office and work room.

*Second floor.*—The second floor consists of the tops of the east and west wings in which are situated the library staff rooms and certain other office accommodation.

<i>Capital expenditure.</i> —	£
Land .. . . .	30,000
Buildings, including lay-out	598,000
(including architects, etc., fees)	
Furniture and equipment ..	52,000
	£680,000

## Kensington—comment

TO do any sort of justice to librarianship in an appraisal of this new library it is necessary to keep in mind the fact that it has not been designed as a library in its own right. It is only a unit, the first unit, in a grand complex of Civic Centre buildings. If one keeps this fact clearly in mind, reason emerges—but oh, the pity of it. The architect, grown old in his ways (Mr. Vincent Harris has been designing buildings for a great many years), here has had his way at a cost of £680,000. Kensington has got a monument to the past, and British library design has not been advanced one inch.

The final act of librarianship can be expressed in the simplest of terms—that of making a wanted book available to the person who wants it. There is a great deal of difference, said G. K. Chesterton, between the man who wants a book to read, and the man who wants to read a book, and librarians know that the vast majority of those who come to their libraries only want a book to read. Given a free hand in planning a new central library, the majority of librarians today would ask first for two main features—a building which from the outside proclaimed its business, and a building which at the point of entry offered books—books in profusion asking to be picked up and looked at. Kensington readers are denied these features in the pursuit of the architect's design. The building does not look like a library, it is just a grand building. The public entrance is not where the public will expect to find it, and when, through determination and signposts they get to it, they will find that they must make their way through a large and bookless portico, across a grand but bookless entrance area, approach a dock-like service area, beyond which they will be confronted by a vast space, high, wide and handsome. Around the lower 6 ft. of the 50 ft. high walls they will at last see specimens of what they have come so far to seek—the books, out-faced and over-powered by the pomp and majesty of their brass-bound walnut shelves.

So rigidly planned is this lending library that at no time in the future will it be possible to create that easy friendliness which is the high-water mark of the mellow, well-loved library. Anything the staff may do by way of display and encouragement to the reader who only wants a book will be an anachronism. The atmosphere offered to the artist is no different from that offered to the technician—worse, even the children have not been treated differently, for their library is on the same gigantic scale. A

pitiful, few chairs with brightly coloured seats is the only gesture to the care-free gaiety of childhood this architect has been able to make. It seems that all those thousands of readers who go to public libraries for recreational reading have been overlooked—or perhaps it was by deliberate intent that it was decided to make them go so far and work so hard to find a book to read.

What about the readers who know what they want—those who want to read a book? These are the salt of this age of specialization—these are they in whose service higher education is what it is, whose thirst for information justifies technical colleges, research institutes, and library facilities of all sorts, at whose behest librarians and information officers wait—poised for action. How has the architect of Kensington planned for them? It would be fair to expect that since the general reader's convenience has been ignored, it is because the specialist has been considered more important. It is not so.

After the librarian has seen to the needs of his casuals, he would ask of his architect a treatment which would enable him to bring together all those materials which a serious enquirer would expect to find conveniently ready to hand in one place—reference books covering the historical background, textbooks dealing with the mature present, year books, dictionaries and directories providing quickly accessible facts, and periodicals dealing with new, experimental and topical ideas. So, economics and commerce, music and the arts, science and technology, literature and history, each with its separate following of students and readers, can lay claim on the librarian for separate accommodation and considered treatment.

The opportunity offered by the huge building at Kensington to undertake this kind of service has been lost. For home reading, the specialist will find his needs catered for on the same deadpan level as are the needs of the searcher for recreation. Feeling his way round the walls, the decimal classification will eventually ensure that he comes to shelves holding books on his chosen subject. For his reference needs he will have to go upstairs. There he will be offered a seat in a truly handsome Edwardian-styled reference library, and if he has special claims, the use of one of the privileged study sections. He will have to take his own previously selected subject literature with him, for it would only be by chance that he found himself surrounded by his own subject. Even in so obvious a matter as music and gramophone records, the librarians were denied the satisfaction of a planned library in a good location.

In a building of this size it is axiomatic that things will be a long way from each other. A little thought about what the building is for, however, might have avoided the separation of the chief librarian himself from his library and his visitors by a location which commits him to the lower ground floor, and the company of the bookstack, work room, book delivery area, and sorting place. Walking away from the press pre-view it was difficult not to dwell on this business of finding the chief and his executive in the basement—there's a moral in it somewhere.

### *Lewisham*

#### *Brockley Branch*

IT seems odd, fifteen years after the end of the last World War, to be talking of war damage reinstatement, when so many classes of buildings have already received attention—indeed one is prompted to ask "Is this the importance accorded to our libraries?" However, such is the case at Lewisham, a borough which received more than its share of enemy attention. Obviously, it would have been better had the remains of the old buildings been demolished and entirely new ones erected, but the cost would have been so much more that, with eleven buildings to be considered, it was felt better to compromise by using the old



Lewisham: Brockley Branch



Lewisham: Brockley Branch

"shells" and putting in modern interiors—at least the overall initial costs *appeared* to be less!

During the last three years, Lewisham has partially rebuilt and modernized three of its library establishments, and the latest—Brockley Branch Library—which was re-opened by one of the local Members of Parliament (Mr. Henry Price, M.P.), on Saturday, 23rd January, 1960, is a fine example of what careful planning and the use of the most modern methods and fittings can provide. It shows, too, just how far the librarian's ideas can be accepted and put into effect, when co-operation between architect and librarian is at its best.

Brockley Branch library was originally erected in 1905—its erection being made possible by the munificence of Andrew Carnegie; its features of construction and design are therefore well known and usually heartily disliked by most moderns. None the less, its interior lent itself to modernization and many of the "knobs and excrescences" of its "face" have been suitably removed. The district it serves has a population of some 25,000 and is almost entirely residential.

As the policy in Lewisham is to put newsroom facilities in their right modern perspective, Brockley now has no separate newsroom—in fact, as with many libraries, only a selection of national, provincial, foreign and local papers are displayed; these, together with selected magazines, are provided in comfortable surroundings in the adult lending library—it's a pity that Lewisham cannot afford the carpets that Bristol now finds itself able to lay in its lending libraries!

The main effort has been to set a new standard of comfort, spaciousness and attractiveness, and the all-purpose lending department can be claimed

to do this. Wall shelving of the Spur type has been used throughout—no heavy wooden bookcases and no island stacks. Indeed, two shallow alcove projections were put in only to break up an otherwise monotonous run of wall shelving. Tables of modern design, with matching well-upholstered chairs, provide an almost club-like atmosphere in which the specially designed readers' advisor's desk so fits the surroundings that there appears to be no barriers at all (mental or physical) between the staff and the public. The modern design of counter supports this feeling.

Perhaps it is unfortunate that the counters (for both adult and junior libraries) had to be made to cope with the so-called antiquated Brown charging system—but, rightly or wrongly, we in Lewisham are not yet convinced that our 2½ million loans per year could be more easily or satisfactorily handled by any different or "gadgetorial" system. In other words, we are not yet convinced that anyone has found the right answer to this problem—a problem which varies so considerably from library to library.

The junior library has nothing exceptional about it, except that it is not accepted as the final answer, because already plans have been passed for a new, larger, and better equipped children's library which will occupy the major part of a new extension to the branch, and which will be built on adjacent land already acquired for this purpose. Indeed, the very wide and active work carried on by the children's department of these libraries with their weekly children's concerts, story hours, play-reading group, study circles, clubs, etc., has led the Council to realize the absolute necessity of adequate children's library buildings and facilities, and these are being provided as fast as local government will permit.

One of the main features of this reconstruction is the use of a wall-saving type of low pressure hot water heating which, having a thermostatically controlled oil-fuelled boiler with separately thermostatically controlled blowers in the various rooms, cuts out much of the labour required to maintain the heating system—indeed, almost takes away the need for a caretaker.

The hot water is driven by pump from the boiler into coils in four steel cases in the lending libraries; a blower fan expels the heated air from around these coils out into the room and thermostats cunningly placed in what would normally be the coldest spots, ensure that each "blower" is switched on when its part of the room gets below set temperature.

The branch has been closed for seven months and, although during this period a part-time service

has been carried on from the mobile branch library (which was stationed at the back of the building site each morning and all day Saturday), the major part of the book stock for the branch has been carefully overhauled; in fact, much was discarded and a great many additions made. At the same time, the task of changing the classification from Brown to Dewey was completed, which now applies to most of the system.

The reconstruction of Lewisham's library service goes on, its standards are continually being raised and its coverage broadened. Already it has effectively entered the schools, the hospitals, the old people's homes and clubs—the ultimate aim is to take over completely all library services and facilities within the borough. Ancillary services, even those as diverse as archive preservation and the running of music festivals, have already been successfully brought within the orbit of the library service, and it is hoped that in the not too distant future the library establishments in this area will indeed become the main cultural centres.

R. D. RATES

## Westminster

### *Pimlico Children's Library*

As a rule it is desirable to provide for children in the same premises as adults, but there are exceptions to every rule. In Westminster, generally the best place for a library for adults—catering chiefly for non-resident employees, students and other "visitors"—is unlikely to be a suitable location for child users. It may well be in a district with a few residents, made difficult and dangerous of access by heavy traffic. Therefore, though there are books for children at all libraries, it has been necessary to provide additional service points for children only.

One such library for children only was opened in Pimlico in March this year. Pimlico, which was seriously damaged during the war, has since been largely restored and rebuilt. The City Council's Churchill Gardens Housing Estate covers a large part of the area and this development has been further supplemented with smaller Council estates and the conversion to flats (under private enterprise) of many of the larger and older properties. Since the war the children here have been served from temporary children's libraries, but last year the opportunity was taken to provide a larger, permanent library in one of the blocks of flats then being erected. What would have been two shops fronting on the main street, together with their yards, were earmarked for



library purposes. Intended to serve not only the children living in the estate, but also those elsewhere in Pimlico, it is sited on the edge of the estate, not within it, as it was felt that children living outside the estate would be reluctant to go to a library situated well inside its boundary.

The library, which is actually part of Littleton House, Churchill Gardens, is open every evening Monday to Friday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. The shelves look gay and attractive and altogether there is room for over 4,000 volumes, including a selection of picture books for the youngest readers and also a small reference collection to help answer the children's questions and assist them in their hobbies and their work.

The library itself is a very pleasant place, well furnished and gay. The library has been built over the areas of both shops and of one yard, so that it is an "L"-shaped room. The remaining quarter has been made into a paved courtyard, into which one looks through a large glass wall facing the entrance.



Westminster: Pimlico Children's Library

The staff counter stands just inside the entrance and nearby is the section for the little ones, with displays of picture books and a long window seat on which they can sit and read them. The long part of the "L" houses all along one wall the collection of books for home reading, with reference books and a selection of periodicals at the far end, with brightly coloured metal tables and cosy green leather armchairs. The wall of that part of this section which faces on to the courtyard consists of two glass walls, from floor to ceiling, which can be pulled wide open in the warm weather when the children will use the courtyard as a pleasant open air reading room. The courtyard is planted, by the City Engineer's Department, with shrubs and colourful flowering plants.

There is a tasteful ceiling of deal tongued and grooved boards treated with plastic matt sealer. The floor is of highly polished maple and the walls are of lightweight plaster painted light blue and light grey. The remainder of the woodwork, including shelving, is of West African hardwood. The room is heated by the District Heating Scheme, and diffused artificial lighting comes from lamps inset into the ceiling. A staff work room, and a room in which chairs can be stacked and in which the children can hang their hats and coats, complete the building.

A few features are worthy of special mention. The run of wall shelving, for example, can be broken by placing masking panels of black and white over the individual bays of shelving; this device is useful, on the one hand, to provide reserve shelf space and, on the other, to distribute readers at very busy times. There are no free-standing bookcases, but two specially designed display cases stand in the middle of the room; these are on wheels to facilitate movement, but they can readily be locked to prevent it. The staff counter is of a novel light design in metal and glass and comprises three separate items—two small desks for charging and discharging of books and a glazed draught screen. These units can be moved readily into whatever position proves most suitable, but normally face the small glazed entrance hall through which passers by can see into the library.

Although the site is ideal for a children's library, the decision to incorporate the library in a seven-storey block of flats brought several problems for the architect to solve. The chief of these were: firstly, that the height from floor to ceiling being that appropriate for shop was less than normal for a library; and secondly, that the substantial steel piers that would normally have

risen between the shops appeared in the middle of the library. Add to these the further difficulty that, as little natural light could come from the street front owing to the low fascia and overhanging frontage common to all the shops, it was decided to put the offices at the front and gain light by a clerestory window midway, where the junction between the shops and yards would have come.

These difficulties have been overcome by frankly accepting and even emphasizing them. Thus, for example, the ceiling in the middle of the room below the clerestory has been deliberately made as low as possible (6 ft. 11 in.), so that, by contrast, the rest of the ceiling (9 ft. at the front and 8 ft. at the rear), appears higher; and one of the piers, naturally an oblong, has been enclosed in a circular casing of light plaster and thus been emphasized into a decorative feature. (At present it is covered with a map of the City but can, of course, easily be covered temporarily or permanently with any other decoration.)

The overall area of the site is 1,840 sq. ft., including 160 sq. ft. for offices and 340 sq. ft. for the garden. The value of the site and shell of the shop bays was £11,000. To convert this shell into library premises involved building works and professional fees at a cost of some £9,000. The library was designed by Messrs. Powell and Moya, the architects for the Churchill Gardens Scheme, in consultation with the City's Director of Housing (E. J. Edwards, F.R.I.B.A., F.R.I.C.S.), and the Librarian (L. R. McColvin, C.B.E., F.L.A.). The main contractors were Messrs. M. J. Gleeson (Contractors) Ltd., and the Sub-Contractors responsible for the woodwork, which is a specially attractive feature of the building, were Messrs. D. Burkle and Son, Ltd.

L. R. McCOLVIN

#### North Western Branch

The Annual Meeting of the North Western Branch of the Library Association will be held in the Municipal Library, Museum Street, Warrington, on Thursday, 23rd February, 1961.

Notices of motion for consideration at the Annual Meeting must be sent to the Honorary Secretary of the Branch not later than Thursday, 26th January, 1961.

#### Northern Branch

Notices of motion for the A.G.M. must be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Wallsend P.L., on or before 15th December, 1960.

## Three New Central Libraries

*Plans for new central libraries are well advanced in many British towns, and from time to time a hint of their promise appears in the press, as models, or architects' drawings get photographed and given the treatment. From them, three have been selected for presentation here. All have new and exciting ideas to offer, and the chief librarians responsible have contributed the following comments.*

### Bradford

BY

H. BILTON, F.L.A., *City Librarian*

THE present Bradford Central Library was built in 1878, and its inadequacies are all too evident to public and staff alike. Its long history has seen many changes in the type of service offered and many improvisations to meet these changing needs.

A substantial proportion of the reference library book stock has to be stored at branch libraries and book stores remote from the city centre. There is no display and exhibition space worthy of the name, and no rooms of any kind where hospitality can be given to societies and groups with whom normally the library service would wish to co-operate.

Today it is recognized by all shades of opinion that the building is no longer capable of alteration or enlargement to meet present or future needs.

#### THE NEW BUILDING

The new building is designed to give reasonable expansion during the next fifty years. Improvements and changes in the type of library service during the next half century are not easy to forecast but, at least, it is the duty of today's planners to place the minimum of obstacles in the way of their successors' changing ideas. The proposed building, therefore, has been planned to give the maximum of unencumbered floor space relying upon lightweight glazed division screens and unit bookcases to separate the library departments.

In the light of the present-day trend towards specialization, the decision was made in the very

first planning requirements for the subject department principle to be observed in the operation of the new central library. The present

building is quite unsuitable for such a division of the library service and the acute problems of such a radical re-organization are fully recognized. Nevertheless the first steps in the organization of subject departments have already been taken in regard to the book stock.

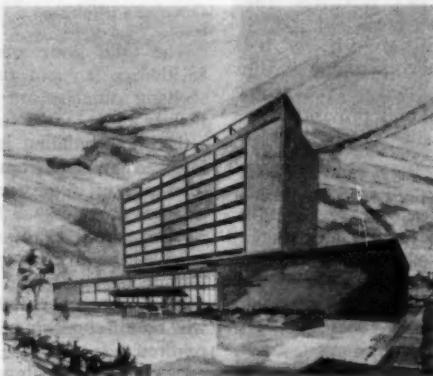
#### LIBRARIAN AND ARCHITECT AGREE

With the known deficiencies of the existing building and the obvious requirements of the subject department arrangement in mind,

the new building has been planned on generous lines in order that the full potentialities of the library service may be realized for the first time in Bradford.

The new library may be said to be designed on a vertical axis. The public will have access to all departments primarily by lifts, or staircase, situated near the centre of the building. The most used departments will be on the lower floors; the large entrance and exhibition hall will also contain the civic information service which, besides supplying the appropriate information, will also serve to direct the reader to the part of the library appropriate to his needs.

The bookstack rises from basement to roof at one side of the building and will be accessible from every floor level. Administrative offices and departments are, in the main, on the upper floors.



Bradford: proposed new central

The public service departments are to be housed on the ground, first and second floors. Each of these main floors has an upper, balcony floor giving additional accommodation and yet preserving on each floor sufficient height in the centre to maintain reasonable proportions with the generous floor area.

The third and fourth floors being used for purely administrative purposes have low ceiling heights. There is an intermediate, open floor between the ground and first floors which will contain, initially, only a refreshment and smoke-room and the lift shafts. It will be a matter of comparative ease to convert this open space for additional accommodation or book storage in future years.

#### PROVISIONAL LAY-OUT

The departments envisaged at this stage of the planning, together with floor areas and approximate shelving capacities, are given below. It is emphasized that much detailed planning remains to be done, and the disposition of all shelving, furniture and fittings is still only provisional.

FLOOR	DEPARTMENTS	AREA IN SQ. FT	SHELF CAPACITY
<i>Basement</i>	Engineering services	2,474	
	Cloakrooms, toilets, etc.	960	
	Archives, stores, etc.	3,344	
	Stack	1,025	21,000v.
			7,803
<i>Ground</i>	Entrance hall	3,255	
<i>Floor</i>	Offices, etc.	2,310	
	Newspaper & Periodical Room	1,112	
	Lecture Theatre (400 seats)	6,180	
	Popular Lending Library	6,427	
	Children's Library	2,704	
	Stack	922	21,000
			17,500
			22,910
<i>Upper</i>	Art Library	2,032	6,500
<i>Ground</i>	Art Display	2,940	5,000
<i>Floor</i>	Music Library	3,007	+ Gramophone records
			17,500
			11,535
<i>Open</i>	Meeting rooms	1,102	
<i>Floor</i>	Staff, Caretaker, etc.	1,532	
	Stack	922	
			17,500
			11,535
<i>First</i>	Refreshment Room	2,007	
<i>Floor</i>	Outdoor Exhibition (Sculpture, etc.)	3,484	
			5,491
			8,048
	Commerce, Science, etc.	7,080	7,500
	Stack	968	15,000

<i>Upper</i>	Patents, etc.	3,221	5,500
<i>Floor</i>	Stack	968	19,000
			4,189
<i>Second</i>	Social Sciences	7,080	7,000
<i>Floor</i>	Language & Literature	968	15,000
	Stack		7,000
			8,048
<i>Upper</i>	Local History	3,221	5,000
<i>Second</i>	Stack	968	19,000
<i>Floor</i>			4,189
<i>Third</i>	Cataloguing Department	6,398	
<i>Floor</i>	School Libraries Department	682	
	Stack	968	19,000
			8,048
<i>Fourth</i>	Administration & Staff quarters	6,391	
<i>Floor</i>	Stack	1,657	32,000
			8,048

The total floor area of the new library is 88,309 sq. ft., and the provisional figures for shelving capacity are 64,500 volumes in open shelves and 175,000 volumes in the stack.

The new building is to be formed by a reinforced concrete frame on a 21 ft. module and incorporates reinforced concrete floors. The external columns will be faced in stone and the elevations will be of stone, glass and slate. A complete panel on the front elevation, at the end housing the bookstack, is to have a wall sculpture.

It is proposed that the whole of the building will be air-conditioned, the heating plant being oil-fired.

The proposed library is to be placed on a dominant site in the redevelopment of the Bradford central area and will front eventually on to the proposed inner ring road. The site is adequate for an extensive garden layout with car-parking facilities.

As the first major post-war civic building this library must attempt to forecast the future rather than reflect the past and should give a clear indication of its purpose.

The greater part of the library departments are enclosed in glass, thereby making the lower floors in particular into display areas. This feature will be even more emphatic at night when all the building lights are on.

The provision of meeting rooms, lecture theatre, display and exhibition rooms, together with adequate facilities for the housing and circulation of the city's collection of books, should make this new building the natural cultural centre for the City of Bradford.

The estimated cost is £500,000.

# Luton

BY

FRANK GARDNER, F.L.A., *Borough Librarian*

A NEW Central Library for Luton has been under discussion for a long time, speculatively for ten years, and seriously for five, so there has been plenty of time to think about it. Not that this is necessarily an advantage. Lord Acton thought for a lifetime and hardly put a word on paper; as far as one can gather, the cathedral builders hardly thought at all, but got on with the job, knowing it might take a hundred years.

The period of gestation did, however, give time to set some ideas down, to formulate what kind of a central library was required for an industrial town of medium size, to get some definite ideas of the function, the size, and the relationship of departments, to estimate what problems readers would find in using a large library.

Many attacks were made on these problems, often resulting in solutions being almost unconsciously arrived at by a process of elimination. Discussions with colleagues were particularly fruitful. Visits abroad were rewarding, and it was fortunate that the Chairman and architect were sent by the Corporation to see Swedish libraries. Scandinavia was a revelation, and I got my first insight there of the virtues of simplicity and the effective use of space. And there was, of course, the concept of the gallery library, which changed my whole thinking. There was much reading and looking at plans, a frustrating business, for a plan never shows how a building really looks.

The first and most intractable problem, when the project was approved in principle, was that of a site. Many sites were discussed or offered, but the Libraries Committee, with a determined chairman, was quite firm that the site for a new central library must primarily be central and accessible. Finally they got their way, and a site was agreed at the corner of what is to be a new shopping street, facing on to a new Town Square. Not only was this site satisfactory in itself, but as the first stage in a comprehensive town plan,

it was likely to be completed within the shortest possible time.

Inevitably, since all building is a compromise between what is desirable and what is possible, there were snags. Since the site was immensely valuable, the Corporation was unwilling that the whole of the ground floor should be used for library purposes. The ground floor space available for library purposes was approximately 6,000 sq. ft.

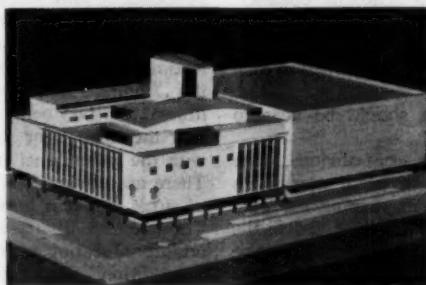
In addition, owing to the nature of the ground, no basement was practicable, and the building will rest on 150 concrete piles.

These, and other considerations, dictated the briefing given to the architect and the preliminary discussions on the plan.

As soon as the project began to take shape, some eminent colleagues were written to, occupying both old and newish buildings, to ask what features in their present building they most liked and what they would most ardently alter. The replies were most valuable and practical.

The following considerations, some major, some minor, as a result of seeing, reading, and listening, emerged:—

1. The plan should be as open as possible;
2. In a multi-storey building there must be adequate lift provision;
3. The division for stock, readers and accommodation, between reference and lending function, was largely artificial;
4. To display a large lending library stock on open shelves, the gallery library was the most practical means;
5. The functions of clerical and professional work must be physically separated if professional librarians are to do professional work;
6. Adequate guidance to readers must be positive and pre-planned, not an afterthought;
7. Adequate staff working spaces must be provided in all departments;



Luton: proposed new central

8. Subject departments must arise from obvious needs and not be imposed;
9. The library is a meeting place for "responsive" people, and a natural resort for them. Other cultural facilities should, therefore, be provided;
10. The reasonable comfort of staff working difficult hours and under difficult conditions should be provided for. This implies lavatories on every floor, good cloakrooms, individual lockers, and a decent, comfortable staff rest room;
11. Administration quarters should be well away from public rooms, and related to each other;
12. Stack accommodation should be near to where it is wanted.

Some of these details may seem obvious, some controversial, but they have been selected as being the most important in shaping the plan which resulted. 1 and 2, for instance, led to the adoption of electric floor heating and the extensive use of light partitioning for minor departments grouped around the principal ones. These points also dictated the actual grouping of departments. Points 3 and 4 made a practical single unit of first and second floors. It was regarded as fundamental that reference library users should have easy access to the large open-shelf lending stock, and the adoption of the gallery plan made this feasible. The American open stack plan was considered and discarded. Point 5 practically decided the ground floor plan. Point 12 affected the departmental grouping and situation of corridors and lifts.

It is not, of course, suggested that all these details are universally applicable—there can be no general solution to particular problems. But for this particular problem, the ease with which the final plan assembled was an indication that adequate solutions had been found.

This, then, is the final plan.

On the ground floor, a "market place", for information and Central Control. On the right of the foyer, advice and information bureau. On the left, Library Information and registration. The Central Control is planned as just that—charging and discharging of all books, both adult and junior, and control of non-members. Once the reader is through, he goes where he will in all public parts of the building. Behind the control, a transaction room for book sorting and dispatching to appropriate departments. A conveyor belt will carry books through to the transaction room. To the right of the control, there is a staircase and three public lifts. From the trans-

action room, a fourth lift is for conveyance of books to all floors and through the stack. The children's library is behind this area, with a separate story hour room on the right. At the rear of the building is the staff entrance and loading bay, with a goods and staff lift.

On the first floor is the main floor of the adult lending library, about 7,000 sq. ft. with, grouped around it, music and gramophone library, work room and seminar room. Also on this floor are periodicals room, workshop and periodical filing room.

On the second floor are the gallery of the lending library, occupying about two-thirds of the lending area below, and the reference library, the two being connected. It is intended that the main floor shall be a popular library, with the gallery shelving more advanced books. There are obvious difficulties in such a division of stock, but it is hoped they can be overcome. The reference library is about 3,000 sq. ft., with additional seating accommodation on the gallery. In addition, on the same floor are a group of study carrels and a microfilm room. Also on this floor are the group of offices for Librarian, Deputy and Secretary, and a small exhibition gallery.

The third floor is the lecture theatre, which has been designed to seat about 250 people, with reasonable facilities for stage performances and films. There are large dressing rooms, entrance lounge and foyer, crush bar, facilities for serving refreshments, cloakroom, and washrooms. Nearly 6,000 sq. ft. is devoted to this suite of accommodation, which may seem lavish, but there is literally no comfortable accommodation in Luton at present for meetings for societies, lectures, or amateur theatricals. It is even hoped that the accommodation will be such as to tempt the occasional professional repertory company. Behind the lecture theatre is the staff lounge, with dining recess and kitchen, looking out on to a roof garden (which is also accessible from the lecture theatre). Also on this floor is the main administration block, with staff cloakrooms and lockers. This continues one further floor up, as does the projection gallery of the lecture theatre.

The stack, which starts on the first floor, continues three further floors, and the total stack accommodation of about 150,000 is considered sufficient for some years, though provision is made for further floors if required. Estimated total cost, excluding land, is about £300,000.

Work on the piling and foundation slab was started in September, and it is hoped that completion will be in the summer of 1962.

## Norwich

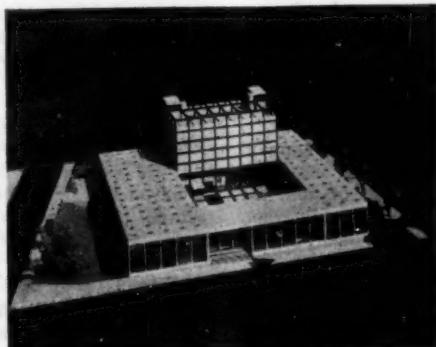
BY

PHILIP HEPWORTH, M.A., F.L.A., *City Librarian*

THE building of the new Norwich Central Library was commenced late in October, 1960, and is to be completed by July, 1962. It was originally designed in 1956 by Mr. David Percival, B.A., A.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I., the Norwich City Architect, and the design has been approved by the Royal Fine Arts Commission. Plans for a new Central Library were made as early as 1918, and since that date, at least four different sites have been considered and there have been some half-dozen different sets of sketch plans prepared. The room dimensions on which the present

library is based were developed from a range worked out by Mr. G. Hayward, City Librarian, 1935-51, and scaled upwards. These were subsequently scaled downwards by the Libraries Committee, after informal contacts with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government during a period of governmental financial stringency. In addition, a good deal of replanning within the original arrangements of 1956 has been made.

The site is a central one facing (left of the picture), the Norwich Theatre Royal and the fine eighteenth century Assembly House, and (right of picture), the Fire Station and the Norwich City Hall. The front will face forward over a large car park to the central open Provision Market, and the area is dominated by the spire of St. Peter Mancroft Church. The tower of the City Hall is also nearby, and these two features influenced Mr. Percival to incorporate a tower stack into his design. He was also interested in the courtyard plan of the new Duisburg Central Library which the City Librarian subsequently visited, at his request, in 1957. There are few large central libraries built around a courtyard, but the very successful one at Östersund, Sweden, was seen by Mr. Hepworth last year. The total site area is 50,000 sq. ft. The building area is 43,000 sq. ft.



Norwich: proposed new central

It will be seen that there is parking for four staff cars (right); also on the right between the trees is parking for users and callers at the library. At the rear (not shown), under a ramp, provision will be made for covered parking for staff cycles and scooters. Practically the whole of the basement floor is given over to archives and manuscripts; the windows for the office suite of this department may be seen flanking a rising lawn on the left. There is over 13,000 sq. ft. of strong room accommodation which it is intended to equip with rolling shelving giving

maximum capacity; a repair shop (including fumigation), and photographic room are also included in addition to offices for the senior archivist and other staff. There is also a search room (600 sq. ft., 12 seats). Corridors on this floor will be flanked by bookcases housing the old Norwich City Library (founded 1607), and there will be a comfortable foyer giving access to a lecture hall, with 75 stepped seats extended up through the basement and ground floor. This will be fitted with projection apparatus. There is a small kitchen nearby, and light refreshments may be sold to hirers of the lecture hall.

The main library public rooms are on the ground floor. Immediately to the right is a periodicals room (1,500 sq. ft.), which it is hoped to equip with comfortable seating for 48 people, and news stands of original design. It is intended to sell coffee and light refreshments, probably by machines, in this room, and to permit smoking. The temptation so often seized today to abolish such a room was not taken, although many of the more specialized periodicals will be housed elsewhere. Should the periodicals room idea not prove successful, however, the room is designed on flexible lines, and could easily be converted to an addition to the reference department, technical library, etc. The reader seeking other

departments must cross the quiet courtyard past a fountain provided by the United States Army Air Force, who have set up a memorial fund to commemorate those of their fallen who died in East Anglia. Part of this fund has already been applied to the provision of American books and periodicals, and this endowment is to be continued (see later).

Turning left inside the entrance (near which is a light well), the reader approaches a projecting kiosk where the mechanical photo-charging processes, controlling admission to the Central Lending department, are carried out. Immediately within is a pavilion for the staff offering assistance to readers, and containing the usual equipment required for the work of a busy central lending department. The area of the department is 4,500 sq. ft., having been reduced to this figure on the advice of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, but contrary to that of both the Norwich City Architect and City Librarian. Plans have, however, been made to incorporate a tasteful gallery giving an additional 1,500 sq. ft., but the Council has so far not approved these, though it has approved the provision of bolt-holes, etc., which would make the early provision of such a gallery an easy matter. The layout of the lending department is interesting, a quarter of the accommodation being given over to displays, catalogues, and comfortable seating, flanking the floor-to-ceiling windows of the quiet courtyard. It was not felt that the population of Norwich, 118,000, justified the subject department plan proposed for certain other large new central libraries. In any case, it was realized that the Norwich City Council, already providing expensive "county" reference, local history and archives services, would not have the resources to approve of the appointment of subject specialists at the range of salaries that, for example, Liverpool pays. The arrangement of the books will therefore be on traditional lines in subject alcoves with fiction along the walls. Lighting will be even over the whole area so as to facilitate subsequent rearrangement of bookstacks.

On turning right after crossing the courtyard, the reader proceeds past a low division fronting the American Memorial Room, to be provided by the U.S.A.A.F., to house books of remembrance and other memorials to those fallen, as well as a representative collection of American literature. Here is the reference library (right), of 4,000 sq. ft, with 32 seats and the stock in a series of L-shaped bays. The final arrangement has not yet been decided, but there will doubtless be quick reference, commercial, technical, and art sections. An approach to industry was made last

year, but interest in the Norwich area does not at the moment seem to justify the provision of a separate commercial and technical library. Library technical facilities, though much improved in recent years, are not, in the opinion of the City Librarian, up to the standard of a city of the regional importance of Norwich. In the reference library are five carrels.

A mezzanine floor is provided over most of the ground floor area—in the central lending library a proposed gallery, already mentioned; over the entrance corridor and top half of the lecture hall a children's library, with toilet and washing facilities, and over the large reference library a local history suite with a special room furnished in the style of a gentleman's library for the fine Colman Library of Norfolk material. Twenty-four seats are provided on this floor, but more could be introduced if the quantity of shelving were reduced. It is at present planned to house most of the local collection on this floor, rather than in the stack. The total area given over to local history is 3,000 sq. ft.

The area not shown (at the back of the photograph) is given up to packing and unpacking for the schools library department, and for the general administration. Fronting this area, and looking on to the courtyard at the mezzanine level, are the main administrative and cataloguing offices, City Librarian's office, etc.

The tower stack is of four floors, each of 2,800 sq. ft., and a fifth floor could be constructed later. The housing of the two lifts can be seen in the photograph. It will, unfortunately, be necessary for economy to use up much of the present old shelving on these stack floors (though the City Architect would have preferred the Spur system).

The bottom stock floor will house newspapers and folios; half will not be laid out at first as it may be necessary to increase the number of reading room (in the university sense) seats, now that Norwich is to have a university. Apart from this provision, the reference and local history seating (including carrels and the American Room), totals 92. No attempt is given in this account to describe the heating or lighting of the building which will, however, be on the most modern lines.

On 6th September the Norwich City Council approved the tender of Messrs. Marshall-Andrew and Co. Ltd. to erect the new Central Library for the sum of £256,952. The City Treasurer then estimated that other costs (site and road works, architectural and engineering services and loan expenses) would bring the total cost to £341,072. This included £15,000 for furniture and fittings, a figure which has since been revised to £24,000.

## Did They Listen?

*The two papers on library buildings read at the Brighton Conference in 1958 were outstanding in many ways but particularly in the challenge which they threw down to the authorities with out-of-date, adapted, or otherwise unsuitable library buildings. The two speakers have been invited to comment on the effect of their papers in the light of what has happened during the two years since they delivered them.*

### To Build or not to Build?

BY

GEORGE A. CARTER, F.L.A.

*Borough Librarian, Warrington*

THE paper I was privileged to read at the Brighton Conference in 1958 ended with the word "Action", and the most appropriate tall-piece to the paper would describe what action, if any, local authorities had been prompted to take as a result of the paper by causing new public library building projects to be put in hand.

Unfortunately this would necessitate an enquiry from local authorities and this I have not been able to undertake. The paper, however, was designed to have other effects which may be studied with less difficulty and these I will attempt to describe.

At Brighton I juggled with slabs of wood which represented slices of various cakes. First, there was the building cake representing a total expenditure of £10,316 million on buildings of all types in this country since the war. Large slices of this cake had been devoted to housing, educational and industrial buildings, and a thin sliver of paper, representing an expenditure of £2 million on new public library buildings, floated pathetically in the air as it was removed from the cake. Next followed the local government cakes, representing the annual expenditure of local authorities on all services and their expenditure on capital projects. The object of these two cakes was to suggest to local authorities that the time had perhaps come when the value attached to the services administered by them should be revised in view of the advent of the block grant. Large slices of these cakes had been devoted in the post-war years to education and housing, perhaps the further development of these services would not need to take such a large share of the whole and other services, including libraries, could perhaps hope to receive more than the crumbs. Such was my pious hope as I juggled in 1958 and as Mr. Roy Stokes tried to calculate the value of the sawdust on his knee when he reassembled the pieces of these cakes.

Alas, the "Return of Rates", published by the I.M.T.A. for 1959-60 and 1960-61 does not show any startling redistribution of income during the first two years of the block grant. The average rate levied per head of population in 83 County Boroughs on education amounted to 283s. 11d. in 1959-60 and 306s. 3d. in 1960-61, an increase of 7·8 per cent. The rate for libraries, museums and art galleries increased by 8 per cent (from 9s. 4d. to 10s. 1d.) in the same two years, a very small crumb indeed. In both years the amount levied for education considerably exceeded the total government grant for purposes other than housing, and in March 1960, Earl Bathurst stated in the House of Lords "that education is now running at £740 million a year, and will in the very near future be rising to £1,000 million . . . . Another way of expressing it is that in 1951 it was 3 per cent of the national product, while today it is 4 per cent of a very much greater national product". Whilst in the House of Commons in February, Sir David Eccles said: "I have just invited local education authorities to make proposals for the 1962-63 school building programme . . . In accordance with the White Paper of December 1958, the total available for the three years 1962-1965 will be £185 million in comparison with £115 million for the two preceding years".

Perhaps all my juggling was not in vain, however, for I also suggested that if the local government cakes could not be sliced differently, there was ample room for a substantial increase in their total size. Both re-slicing and increasing the size do not depend entirely on local authorities. The actions of local authorities depend very largely on Parliamentary action, which in turn depends upon Parliamentary opinion, and recently there has been some slight but cheering evidence that both Houses of Parliament are aware of the importance of public libraries.

In the House of Commons, references to the Roberts Report have been fairly frequent whilst in a stimulating debate on the problems and opportunities of leisure in the House of Lords on Wednesday, 2nd March, 1960, more than one speaker stressed the importance of public libraries. Most cheering of all was a statement made by the Lord Bishop of Chichester in this debate when he showed that he had either read my Brighton paper, or a report of it, when he said:—

"Do we give in this age of growing oppor-

tunity enough to the public libraries which are doing such splendid work? I notice that it is a common complaint of many officials of libraries that their value is underrated by some local authorities. They claim that 75 per cent of the central municipal libraries in the country are in the veteran class of buildings; and, although one would not judge a library by its outward amenities any more than one judges a book by its cover, yet its outward appearance does count, and it suggests how much value the community puts upon this exercise."

## In the Counties

BY

S. G. BERRIMAN, F.L.A.

*County Librarian, Middlesex*

IN my Annual Conference paper at Brighton in 1958, I sought to give a brief survey of the volume of building which the counties had achieved, and of the circumstances which had crippled county building programmes through almost their entire history. I then estimated what appeared to be the minimum volume of building which would be necessary to replace the worst of the inadequate premises endured by so many counties for so long. At that point my courage failed me. I should have had the strength of my convictions, based on the evidence given me by my county colleagues, and have stated not only that the time was overdue for extensive building but that, given the expected financial climate, the appropriate Ministers could defer our case no longer. But to have said so in 1958 would have seemed like tempting the gods to destroy our hopes, and my foresight was enclosed within the blinkers of past decades of restrictions.

At the end of my paper I wished chairmen and librarians "a most persuasive and persistent tongue". Now that we can look back over two brightening years, I feel that to many my advice was unnecessary and almost impertinent. It is clear that many county library committees have not wasted their time trying to persuade their county councils, but have rather commanded them to adopt development programmes of a length and variety unknown in the past. Now that the words "loan sanction" do not hang like an iron curtain between our plans and their

fulfilment, the opportunity is being seized as quickly as the county architects can build. Not everywhere, of course, but that is just one of those features of British local government which we have to explain to our foreign visitors; perhaps one day we will find a way to spur sluggish library authorities.

With the patient aid of my county colleagues I have a schedule of buildings which have been built since my 1958 Conference paper or are being built or should be in the process of erection next year. The total is the encouraging one of 171 branch libraries and 3 Headquarters buildings. These branch libraries will have provided about 500,000 sq. ft. of space for about £2,500,000. The 3 Headquarters buildings will have cost a total of almost £372,000. These figures exclude sites.

This 500,000 sq. ft. of branch building (over Great Britain) represents a remarkable gain over that achieved in the 'thirties and 'fifties when, in England, approximately 250,000 sq. ft. represented our new buildings as distinct from adaptations.

A closer examination of what is being done is encouraging. Forty-six of the new branches will each have cost over £20,000, and some are at or above the £50,000 mark. The new towns are getting their share and in many cases will enjoy one comprehensive and large central library in contrast to the clutter of branches found in many of our conurbation areas. In all, 47 counties in

Great Britain will have provided this surge of building. It is true that 5 counties will have provided 80 of the 171 branches, but it is also true that a number of counties, who have not been known for their building development, have set to and will have each built more than one new branch. A welcome aspect is that we have been able to depart from past utility standards, and good facilities for children and reference are being included. A number of counties are building, or propose to build, regional libraries which, by their size and facilities, will be a major contribution both to the locality in which they are sited and to the surrounding rural and urban areas; some of these are linked with further education colleges towards comprehensive technical library services.

Outstanding in this development is the sheer aesthetic pleasure much of the building is bringing to our public service, the setting of which has seldom lived up to its ideals. The local government architect, as well as the librarian, is being given his opportunity and, in seizing it, is proving both his versatility and his willingness to depart from convention. Many county councils are also engaging the services of private architects. Modern lighting techniques, a variety of materials, colours and finishes, the interior patios or garden courts, the use of two or more levels where land is precious, a fresh approach to furniture and fittings, and the general atmosphere of spaciousness in even modest buildings, all combine to earn the praise of readers and to drive home the prestige value of contemporary surroundings for librarianship and, we may hope, for recruitment.

There will be, of course, still much to be done, but it does appear that a new chapter is being written in the history of county library building and that, if the Ministers who control financial policy in local government continue to look as kindly upon our needs as they appear to do now, another three years added to the three I have outlined will make this present chapter a very substantial one indeed. The greatest need after this present phase is for more purpose-designed Headquarters buildings; otherwise the specialist stocks and services they provide to the public service-points from improvised premises will be choked by pressure of the public demand now being created by these new and attractive branch and regional libraries.

[*Grateful acknowledgement for the use of photographs in this issue is made to the Libraries concerned and to the General Electric Co. Ltd. for the Kensington photographs.*]

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# Public Library Buildings in the U.K.

## A Select Bibliography, 1950-1960

### Children's and school libraries

*Islington, Lewis Carroll Library*  
Harrod, L. M. Lewis Carroll Library, Islington. *Municipal J.* (3156), 14th August, 19..., 1735-37, photo, plan.  
*Wallasey, Central Children's Library*  
White, L. Central Children's Library, Wallasey. *Lib. Assn. Rec.*, June, 1951, LIII: 6, 197, photo.

*Uppingham School Building*, 26, March, 1951, 88-95.

*Westminster, Children's Library, Churchill Gardens*

Children's Library, Churchill Gardens, London, S.W.1. *Architectural Design* (10), October, 1960, 408, photos and diagram.

### County libraries

#### Antrim

Murison, W. J. Antrim County Library. *Lib. World*, 59 (686-7), August-September, 1957, 21-22.

#### Bucks.

Jones, Gwenda. New branches in Buckinghamshire. *Lib. Assn. Rec.*, 60 (12), December, 1958, 369-372, illus.

#### Bucks., Beaconsfield Branch

Pooley, F. B. Branch library at Beaconsfield, Bucks. *Arch. Rev.*, 122: 410, 1957.

#### Essex

Essex County—1960. *Liaison*, June, 1960, 42.

#### Herts.

Herts. County builds: 4-year development plan. *Liaison*, September, 1960, 61.

#### Lancashire, Rainford Branch

Donnelly, A. Rainford Branch Library, Lancashire. *Lib. Assn. Rec.*, 61 (6), June, 1959, 158-160, 2 illus.

#### Limerick

Clarke, Desmond. The working of a plan—Limerick County Library. *Leabharlann*, 14 (4), December, 1956, 142-146.

#### Middlesex, Roxeth Branch, South Harrow

*Architecture and Building* 29 (7), 1954, 277, plans, interior photos.

### Municipal central libraries and special departments

#### Airdrie

Scobbie, W. Reorganization of Airdrie Public Library. *Lib. Assn. Rec.*, February, 1952, 54: (2), 56-57, photo.

#### Coventry

Ling, A. Library: Coventry. Architectural plan. *Arch. Rev.*, 127: 20-1, January, 1960.

#### Glasgow, Mitchell Library

Black, C. W., and Kernohan, J. Extension to the Mitchell Library, Glasgow. *Lib. Assn. Rec.*, 55 (9), September, 1953, 282-283.

#### Glasgow, Stirling's Library

Paterson, A. B., and Kernohan, J. Stirling's Library, The commercial library and library of patents. *Lib. Assn. Rec.*, 56 (8), 1954, 297-301, photos.

#### Holborn

Holborn Central Library, London, W.C.1. *Architectural Design* (10), October, 1960, 408, photos and plan.

Library at Holborn, London. *Architect & Building News*, v. 218/16, 19th October, 1960, 493-504, plans, photos, diags, costs.

#### Kensington

Kensington's new library. *Liaison*, July, 1960, 49-51, photos.

### Leeds, Print Room and Art Library

Sweetman, John. Print room and art library, Leeds. *Lib. Assn. Rec.*, 62 (7), July, 1960, 226-228, photos.

#### Liverpool, Music Library

Chandler, G. Liverpool Music Library Suite. *Lib. Assn. Rec.*, 61 (6), June, 1959, 160-162, 2 illus.

#### Liverpool, William Brown Library

The rebuilding of the William Brown Library, Liverpool. *Library World*, 59 (689), November, 1957, 67-68.

#### Manchester

As others see us. Manchester Central Library—an architect's views. *Manchester Rev.*, 6, Autumn, 1953, 477

#### Newcastle upon Tyne

Hinton, E. Austin. Central Lending Library, Newcastle upon Tyne. *Lib. Assn. Rec.*, July, 1951, 53 (7), 227-231, photos.

—Commercial and technical library at Newcastle upon Tyne. *Lib. Assn. Rec.*, February, 1952, 54 (2), 52-53, photo.

#### Penzance

Cable, J. H. I. Library reorganization at Penzance. *Outpost*, July, 1952, 1-4.

#### Plymouth

Best Harris, W. Plymouth Phoenix. *Librarian*, 45 (3), March, 1956, 41-47, photos.

—Plymouth's new Central Library. *Lib. Assn. Rec.*, 58 (11), November, 1956, 427-431, illus.

#### Wigan

Arthur, H. H. G. Reorganization of Wigan Central Lending Library. *Lib. Assn. Rec.*, February, 1952, 54 (2), 54-55, photo.

### Municipal branch libraries

#### Birmingham, Glebe Farm Branch

Patrick, F. J. Glebe Farm Branch Library, Birmingham. *Lib. Assn. Rec.*, 54 (12), December, 1952, 398.

#### Bradford, Wibsey Branch

Bilton, H. Wibsey Branch Library, Bradford. *Lib. Assn. Rec.*, June, 1952, 54 (6), 201-202.

#### Bristol, Eastville Branch

Haugh, W. S. Eastville Branch Library, Bristol. *Lib. Assn. Rec.*, April, 1951, 53 (4), 125-127, photo.

#### Camberwell, Grove Vale

Hahn, W. J. A. Grove Vale Branch Library, Camberwell. *Lib. Assn. Rec.*, March, 1951, 53 (3), 80-81, photo.

#### Glasgow, King's Park District

Black, C. W., and Kernohan, James. King's Park District Library, Glasgow. *Lib. Assn. Rec.*, July, 1952, 54 (7), 231-232.

#### Manchester, Hollyhedge Branch, Wythenshawe

Howitt, Leonard C. Hollyhedge Branch Library, Wythenshawe. *Builder*, 1st August, 1952, CLXXXIII, 161-164

#### Newcastle upon Tyne, Blakelaw Branch

*Municipal Jnl.* (3120), 1952, 2738-2739, illus, plans.

#### Salford, Lower Broughton Branch

Longworth, A. Lower Broughton Library, Salford. *Lib. Assn. Rec.*, June, 1952, 54 (6), 201.

#### Sheffield, Manor Branch

Lamb, J. P. Manor Branch Library, Sheffield. *Lib. Assn. Rec.*, 55 (6), June, 1953, 184-186, illus.

#### Shoreditch, Goldsmith's Row

Goldsmith's Row Branch Library, Shoreditch. *Architect*, 16th March, 1951, 316-318, plans, photos.

(continued on page 386).

# The Library Association

## Council Meetings

Council and committee meetings during 1961 will be held as follows: 25th-27th January; 5th-7th April; 5th-7th July; 18th-20th October.

## Register of Chartered Librarians

At the October Council meeting, 31 Fellows and 140 Associates were elected to the Register as follows:

**Fellows:** Aramide, O. (1960) Regional Library, Ibadan; Armstrong, A. O. (1960) Nottingham P.L.; Bateman, M. (Miss) M.A. (1960) Leicester University; Boyle, M. L. (Mrs.), B.A. (1958) Prev. at Univ. of Reading Library; Brown, J. O. (Miss) (1960) Westminster Technical College; Cave, R. G. J. M. (1959) University College of the West Indies; Chew, J. K. (1960) Preston P.L.; Clarke, P. B., M.A. (1960) Cumberland Co.L.; Cooper, J. G. (Miss) (1960) Bristol P.L.; Cooper, J. M. (Mrs.), B.A. (1960) Nigerian Coll. of Technology, Zaria; Cronshaw, P. (Mrs.) (1960) C.S.I.R.O. Library (Australia); Dickson, A. J., B.A., A.K.C. (1960) G. Wimpey Central Laboratory Library; Douglas, A. M. (Miss), M.A. (1960) Glasgow P.L.; Durey, P. B., B.A. (1958) Reading University; Graham, J. T. (1960) Watford Tech. College; Hayhurst, G. L., B.A. (1960) Nottingham University; Koranteng, E. K. (1960) Regional Library, Sekondi, Ghana L. Board; Langley, G., B.A. (1960) Nottingham P.L.; Neill, J. (1960) Lanark Co.L.; Paget, S. J. (1960) Kent Co.L.; Pyle, M. G. (Miss) (1960) West Riding Co.L.; Selby, B. G. (1960) Berkshire Co.L.; Spiby, D. R. (1960) Nottingham P.L.; Stafford, G. A. (1960) The State Library, W. Australia; Staples, B. G., M.A. (1960) Birmingham P.L.; Styche, F. S., M.A. (1960) Birmingham P.L.; Tanner, J. I. (1960) R.A.F. College, Cranwell; Tibbets, G. R., M.A. (1960) Oriental Inst., Oxford University; Walker, R. S. (1960) Lanark Co.L.; Whaley, D. R. C. (1960) Tube Investments, Dept. of Tech. Inv.; Wheeler, W. G., M.A. (1960) Queen's University, Belfast.

**Associates:** Bailey, W. M. (Miss) (1960) B.B.C. T.V. Reference; Bakewell, A. (Miss) (1957) London County Council Library; Barnard, J. R. (Miss) (1960) British Iron and Steel Res. Assoc.; Barrie, J. M. (Miss), M.A. (1960) New College Library, Edinburgh Univ.; Beardshaw, A. (Miss) (1959) Surbiton P.L.; Bevan, P. (Miss), M.A. (1960) Scottish Central L.; Bibby, J. M. (Miss) (1960) Birkenhead P.L.; Briggs, E. D. (Miss) (1959) Gateshead P.L.; Brown, C. D., B.A. (1955) St. Mary's School, Maidenhead; Brown, I. (Miss) (1959) Warrington P.L.; Butler, B. M. C. (Miss), B.A. (1957) Eastbourne Training Coll.; Byrne, P. F. (1959) Middlesbrough P.L.; Campbell, A. K. D., M.A. (1960) Cumberland Co.L.; Charlton, J. A. (Miss) (1960) Croydon P.L.; Clark, M. W. H. (Miss) (1959) Univ. of London; Coghlan, A. M. (Miss), B.A. (1960) Middlesex Co.L.; Cohen, S. A. (Mrs.) (1956) Bristol P.L.; Cowley, F. G., B.A. (1960) Cardiff University College; Cox, A. B. (Mrs.), B.A. (1960) A.E.I. (Manchester) Ltd.; Cumming, E. E. (Miss) (1959) Edinburgh P.L.; Cunningham, J. S. (Mrs.) (1939) Lusaka City Library, Rhodesia; Davidson, J. (1960) Glasgow P.L.; Dobson, E. (Miss) (1960) Lancashire Co.L.; Donaldson, K. (1960) West Riding Co.L.; Dove, S. P. H. (1960) Kumasi College of Technology; Doyle, A. (1960) Manchester P.L.; Ducker, A. (Miss), B.A. (1960) Penge P.L.; Dunbar, G. M. (Miss) (1960) Middlesex Co.L.; Duke, T. M. (1960) Camberwell P.L.; Eastgate, M. (Miss), M.A. (1959) Wandsworth P.L.; Edgington, M.A. (1960) Bournemouth P.L.; Edwards, H. J. (1960) Lewisham P.L.; Edwards, T. J. (1960) Hornsey, P.L.; Ehrhardt, M. M. H. E. (Miss), B.A. (1960) Widnes P.L.; Evans, C. M. (Miss) (1960) Univ. College of South Wales and Mon.; Falayi, S. O. (1960) Central Medical Library, Yaba, Nigeria; Fea, V. (Miss) (1959) London County Council; Fielden, D. C. (Miss) (1960) Middlesex Co.L.; Foley, A. H. W. (Miss) (1960) Vet. School, Glasgow Univ.; Freer, K. M. (Mrs.), B.A. (1960) Prev. Vancouver; Garratt, M. E. (Miss), B.A. (1958) E. Warwickshire College of Further Education; Gibson, F. (Miss) (1960) Prev. Durham Co.L. & Thurrock; Glaude, N. A. (Miss) (1960) Trinidad Central Library; Glean, F. A. (Miss) (1959) Middlesex Co.L.; Goodchild, C. (Miss) (1960) Liverpool P.L.; Grainger, S. J. (Miss) (1960) King's College Hosp. Med. School; Grant, W. E. M. (Mrs.) (1960) Jamaica Library Service; Gregory, J. R. (Miss) (1958) Orpington P.L.; Hainsworth, M. G. (Mrs.) (1957) Prev. Herts. Co.L.; Hancock, B. M. (Miss), B.A. (1960) Birmingham Ref. L.; Hare, G. (1960) Rotherham P.L.; Heath, M. (Miss) (1960) Malvern P.L.; Hegarty, B. (Miss) (1960) Liverpool P.L.; Hepple, R. (Miss) (1959) Sunderland P.L.; Hey, J. (Mrs.) (1958) I.C.I. Dyestuffs Div.; Heywood, A. C. (Miss) (1960) Chester P.L.; Higgs, M. J. (Miss) (1960) Smethwick P.L.; Hoggett, P. (1960) Hampstead P.L.; Holmes, B. (Miss) (1960) Richmond P.L.; Holroyd, G. (1960) Southall P.L.; Howard, D. M. K. (Miss), B.A. (1959) Holborn P.L.; Howell, D. V. (Miss) (1958) Leyton P.L.; Hu, D. M. (Mrs.), B.A. (1960) Hong Kong Univ.; Isaacs, J. M. (1959) Aldershot P.L.; Jackson, M. (Mrs.) (1958) West Riding Co.L.; Jackson, V. S. C. (Miss) (1959) Scottish Horticultural Res. Inst.; Kimmance, S. K. (Miss) (1960) Univ. of London Inst. of Education; Kirwan, P., M.A. (1959) Southall P.L.; Knox-Hooke, S. A. (1960) West Riding Co.L.; Lee, E. (Miss) (1960) Manchester P.L.; Lever, J. (Mrs.) (1959) Croydon P.L.; Livesey, J. R. (1959) Accrington P.L.; Lofius, P. M. (Miss) (1958) Preston P.L.; McGarry, K. A. J. (1960) Brentford & Chiswick P.L.; McKenzie, M. N. (Mrs.) (1959) Middlesbrough P.L.; Manns, M. R. (Miss) (1960) Portsmouth P.L.; Mansbridge, J. P., B.A. (1960) Loughborough Training Coll. L.; May, E. (1959) Fife Co.L.; Mew, B. V. (Mrs.) (1959) Library Association L.; Mills, J. S. (Mrs.), B.A. (1959) Durham Univ.; Montgomery, R. J. (Miss) (1960) Metal Box Co.; Moore, W. A. (1960) Leicester P. L.; Moorhead, P. J. (Miss) (1959) Nottinghamshire Co.L.; Moorhouse, D. (Miss) (1960) Essex Co.L.; Morris, K. (1960) Edmonton P.L.; Morriss, P. S., B.A. (1959) Merton College L.; Mosley, J. E. (Miss) (1958) L.C.C. Education L. Service; Myers, S. (Miss) (1960) University of London L.; Neil, A. G., B.A. (1959) Manchester P.L.; Nesbitt, J. (Miss), B.A. (1960) Lancs. Co.L.; Nethsingha, C. L. M. (Miss), B.Sc. (1960) Ceylon Inst. of Scientific & Industrial Res.; Nixon, B. E. (Miss) (1960) Magnesium Elektron Ltd. (formerly); Nixon, R. A. (Miss) (1959) Reading P.L.; Owen, H. V. (Miss), M.A. (1960) Berks. Co.L.; Padley, B. (Miss) (1960) Sheffield P.L.; Parr, M. W. (1957) St. Marylebone P.L.; Pattison, P. E. (Miss) (1959) Glasgow P.L.; Pearce, M. J., B.A. (1960) Nottingham P.L.; Platt, P., M.A., Ph.D. (1960) Univ. of Birmingham Inst. of Education L.; Potter, J. (Miss) (1960) Redcar P.L.; Powell, L. B. (1960) Maidstone College of Art L.; Preece, M. H. (Miss) (1960) Finchley P.L.; Reeves, M. E. (Miss)

(1958) Reading P.L.; Rendell, A. J. (Miss) (1960) Dorset Co.L.; Richards, J. E. (Miss) (1959) Inst. of Jamaica; Rowling, B. J. (Miss) (1959) Paddington P.L.; Sadler, C. M. (Miss) (1960) Worcestershire Co.L.; Saich, M. J. (1957) Hendon P.L.; Saunderson, P. A. (Miss) (1959) Bath P.L.; Secretan, V. (1957) St. Marylebone P.L. (formerly); Shadrake, A. M., M.A.(Cantab.) (1960) Royal College of Surgeons of England; Shaw, E. M. (Miss) (1960) Manchester P.L.; Smith, B. B. (1960) A.E.I. (Manchester) Ltd. Res. L.; Southern, D. (Miss) (1960) Manchester P.L.; Stanley, C. E. (Mrs.) (1960) Huddersfield P.L.; Stannard, S. R. (Miss) (1960) Willeoden P.L.; Stephen, L. R. (Miss), B.A. (1958) Kingston-upon-Hill P.L.; Strutt, I. J. (Miss) (1960) Cheltenham P.L.; Taylor, M. A. (Miss) (1960) Manchester P.L.; Taylor, M. J., B.A. (1958) Univ. Coll. of N. Staffs.; Terry, J. M. (Miss) (1960) National Film Archive; Thompson, A. H. (1960) Manchester Ref. L.; Tomlinson, J. R. (Miss) (1957) Nottinghamshire Co.L.; Toon, J. E., B.A.(Oxon.) (1959) The American L.; Trenaman, P. (Mrs.) (1959) Nat. Hospital for Nervous Diseases; Tweddle, M. (Miss) (1960) Newcastle upon Tyne P.L.; Van Aerdenbergen, L. (Mrs.), B.A. (1960) Pharmaceutical Society L.; Walters, J. M. (Miss) (1960) Esher Dist. L., Surrey Co.L.; Walton, J. (Miss) (1959) Manchester P.L.; West, V. M. (Mrs.) (1951) Formerly Cardiff P.L.; White, J. F. (Mrs.) (1960) N. Borneo Educ. Dept.; Williams, M. (Miss), B.A. (1958) Nat. L. of Wales; Wills, M. (Miss) (1960) Oldham P.L.; Wilson, D. V. (1958) Royal Aircraft Est.; Wood, E. F. (Miss), B.A. (1958) Swansea Univ. Coll.; Worthington, G. (Miss) (1958) Constantine Tech. Coll.; Wright, M., M.A. (1960) Iron & Steel Inst. L.; Young, M. S. (Miss) (1960) Glasgow P.L.; Young, W. (1960) South Shields P.L.; Zanker, E. (Miss) (1960) Lambeth P.L.

(to be continued)

#### F.P.E. Exemption

The Register and Examinations Executive Committee have revised the Regulation governing exemption from the First Professional Examination for holders of the Scottish Leaving Certificate.

At their meeting held on the 14th October, 1960, it was resolved,

"That holders of the Scottish Leaving Certificate (or, from 1962, the Scottish Certificate of Education) who present a certificate containing four passes, of which one is English, and of which THREE are at Higher grade, be granted exemption from the First Professional Examination on payment of the exemption fee."

This revision is retrospective to the 1st September, 1960.

#### L.A. Prize Essay, 1961

The following subjects have been chosen by the L.A. Council for a Prize Essay Competition, instituted in 1954.

##### 1. The impact of reading.

2. It has been suggested that a counterpart of the National Library for Science and Technology, covering the humanities, would provide a solution to the problems of inter-library loan. Give your views on the possible function and utility of such a library.

3. It is claimed that the growth of mass communication media implies a decline in cultural standards. How could libraries play a part in arresting such a decline?

#### RULES FOR THE COMPETITION

1. The prize offered by the Library Association is £25. The right to compete is limited to L.A. members. The decision of the Library Association as to eligibility shall be final.

2. The essays submitted must not exceed 3,000 words in length, or be less than 2,500 words: they must be typewritten and submitted in quadruplicate.

3. The authorship of the essays must be strictly anonymous. Each competitor must assume a pen-name and enclose with his essay a sealed envelope with his pen-name typewritten on the outside and his name and address inside.

4. Adequate bibliographical references should be given to any published or unpublished work cited or otherwise used in the essay.

5. The essays, which are to be addressed to the Editor of the LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECORD and marked "Prize Essay, 1961" on the envelope, must reach Chaucer House not later than the 15th July, 1961.

6. The Essays received will be judged by at least three referees, who are to be appointed by the Council of the Library Association. The decision of the referees, or of a majority of them, shall be final.

7. If, in the opinion of the referees, or of a majority of them, no essay submitted to them comes up to a sufficiently high standard of excellence, the referees are empowered not to award the prize; or they may, if they consider it desirable, divide the prize among two or more of the competitors.

8. The result of the competition will be made known in the RECORD in September, 1961, if possible, and the prize essay will be published in the following number of the RECORD. In the event, however, of there being two or more prize essays, the Editor of the RECORD reserves the right of deciding which of these essays he will publish.

9. The copyright of any essay which appears in the LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECORD belongs to the Library Association.

10. The Library Association and the Editor of the RECORD are not to be held responsible for the loss or return of any essay submitted for the competition; nor do they incur any liability whatever in connection with the receipt of essays, any dealings therewith, the judging thereof, or the report thereon.

# W. C. Berwick Sayers

## 1881-1960

H. M. CASHMORE writes:

EVERYBODY interested in libraries will have been shocked to hear of the death on 7th October of William Charles Berwick Sayers. He would have been 79 in December. He attended the Scarborough Conference and then seemed as well as one could expect at his age, keenly interested in people and things, literature, opinions and tendencies. Almost the last words I heard him utter were (under his breath) to stigmatize a speech as "poppycock", but he always valued and praised generously anything and everybody deserving of praise. There have been very few librarians who, in their lifetimes, have become legendary and one of them was Sayers. His library work began when he was on the Bournemouth staff from 1896 to 1904, the last four years as Sub-Librarian; then he became Deputy at Croydon (following Dr. Savage) from 1904 to 1915; Chief at Wallasey (again succeeding Savage) for a time in 1915; and Chief at Croydon (in the footsteps of L. Stanley Jast) from December, 1915, to his retirement in December, 1947. From his earliest days in libraries he had been obviously a "coming man"; then a really big man who influenced policies and people enormously. He joined the Library Association in 1904 and became a Fellow (Honours Diploma) in 1909; sat continuously on the Council for 48 years from 1912 to his death; was President in 1938; and was elected to the Honorary Fellowship in 1947.

For many years he was Chairman of the Executive Committee, but his chief interest was always in education and the younger members of the profession. Of course he was a member of the Library Assistants Association; he was a member of its Council from 1904 to 1915; Honorary Secretary of the L.A.A. Education Committee, 1904 to 1909, and General Honorary Secretary of the L.A.A. (succeeding G. E. Roebuck), 1904-1909 and 1912-1915. He was President of that Association, 1909-1912; editor of *The Library Assistant*, 1908-9; and was elected Honorary Fellow of the L.A.A. in 1914. I remember his coming to Birmingham to start the Midland Division, which is to hold a Golden Jubilee celebration shortly, unfortunately without him. Always there was the enthusiasm for library



Berwick Sayers in his Presidential year, 1938

education from the time when he won the Greenwood prizes for essays in library work, 1898-1899. He had been an examiner for the L.A. since 1912 and was a lecturer in librarianship at the London School of Economics and the University of London School of Librarianship for many years.

Sayers exerted a powerful influence on the National Central Library as a Trustee since 1939 and a member of its Executive Committee since 1930 (Chairman from 1949). He was a member of the B.B.C. Central Council on Broadcast Adult Education.

His unhasting but steady industry was phenomenal and a long series of books bearing his name must amaze those with less energy. Apart from the well-known *Manual of classification*, *Canons of classification*, and his editions (3rd to 6th) of Brown's *Manual of library economy*, he produced such valuable and useful books as the *Manual of children's libraries*, *Introduction to library classification*, *The librarian and his committee*, *The grammar of classification*, *First steps in annotation*, *Books for youth*, and many others. There have been more recent exponents of schemes of classification, but Sayers's work still stands as steady as a rock. He wrote the recognized *Guide and Story of Croydon*, and a bulky book called *Croydon and the Second World War* meant a great deal of work. Outside librarianship and the

works on Croydon he will be remembered as the author of *Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, musician: his life and letters*.

During the Second World War he was injured when on duty as Controller of the South (Croydon) Report Centre at the Town Hall.

In the RECORD of May, 1938, there is a fine tribute to the then President of the Association and it stresses the literary quality of Sayers, his notable work as a poet (some of his lyrics have been set to music by eminent composers) and the fact that he was a real bookman, not only a keeper of books. Many of his friends know how varied and extensive was his knowledge of the insides of books—little-known books as well as classics—and his memory of books, people and places.

I am sure Mrs. Sayers will treasure the albums of travel photographs he made for her, interspersed with his charming poems. There are not many now who can remember the excitement caused in 1915 by the news that Sayers was to marry Olive Clarke, then enjoying (as still) a wide reputation and a deep affection among library people. Some of Sayers's friends know how proud he was of his wife and of his three sons, and there will be genuine and profound sympathy with them in their tragic loss.

Sayers had a happy life and I believe he had very few disappointments; one was the loss of his seat on the Education Committee and the Executive Committee.

It will be a comfort to many to know that the end was speedy and peaceful. Over and over again he and I discussed life and death and always his was a wide and wise outlook. Only a few weeks ago he remarked to me that he and I had already had "eight years' bonus". Future librarians will be grateful for his great work and Croydon in particular will honour his memory; but there will be a diminishing number of his friends who knew his warmth of heart, patience, courtesy and kindness, his humour and his generosity, his sympathetic helpfulness, and his scorn for sham and humbug. He was a lover of the English language, of words written and spoken, which he used with fine effect. His obituary tributes to his friends were moving and memorable masterpieces; it is a pity that this notice is so inadequate and falls so far short of his standard.

#### J. D. STEWART writes:

The sudden death of William Charles Berwick Sayers on 7th October, 1960, will have come as a shock to his innumerable friends and admirers

throughout the world. To those who saw him looking so cheerful at the Library Association conference at Scarborough a few days before, it was one of those happenings that have a quality of unreality.

I first met Sayers on the day in 1904 when he arrived from Bournemouth to fill the post of Sub-Librarian at Croydon. From that day onwards we were friends. We worked together, wrote articles together, planned books and a brave new world for public libraries together, and played and travelled together. He was an ideal companion. Those early days forged a link between us that lasted for well over half-a-century until it was broken this month.

The first years of the century marked a time when the public library as we know it today was just emerging. A small group were fighting the twin battles—and, incredible though it may appear today, they were battles bitterly fought—for the introduction of open access to the shelves, and the application of systematic classification to the bookstacks of our libraries. Sayers soon became a leading member of that group, and did much to win the fight against the forces of reaction.

He brought new life to the Library Assistants Association (as it then was named), fostering discussion at its meetings and actively preparing the way for the establishment of its branches by personal visits to the great provincial centres. I remember the enthusiasm with which he was greeted, and the vitalizing effects of his personality.

It can hardly be necessary to recount the details of his work for the Library Association. He was a member of its Council for over forty years, and during that time his occupancies of key chairmanships were distinguished by his wise guidance and breadth of vision. In particular, his work for the educational aspects of our Association was outstanding. We honoured him, and ourselves, by electing him our President in 1938, and as an Honorary Fellow in 1947.

As a librarian he was a worthy successor to the two great figures of the early century, Stanley Jast and James Duff Brown. The record of the Croydon Public Libraries provides ample proof of his administrative ability, and of his fresh and receptive appreciation of all that is best in librarianship.

All this has been reflected in the remarkable series of books that came from his pen. Mr. Cashmore has mentioned the more important of these, and there is no need for me to repeat what is so well known. But the fact that these books, in their various editions, have long been standard

texts for students and sources of reference for all library workers, must give some idea of the great influence he has had on librarianship throughout the world.

As a teacher, too, his influence can hardly be overestimated. Many of the prominent librarians of today, in this country and abroad, have studied under Sayers during his long service as a tutor of the School of Librarianship of London University. His clarity of thought, and the inspirational value of his teaching have left an indelible mark upon our profession.

After his retirement from the Librarianship of Croydon, he was as active as ever in his interest in the Library Association and in his work for the National Central Library. As a Trustee and as Chairman of its Executive Committee, he has done much to ensure that the National Central Library shall occupy the important position in our national library system that is its rightful place.

He was a man of many interests and accomplishments. He was a poet of no mean stature, and he had a close interest in music. His friendship with Coleridge-Taylor for a number of years resulted in his standard life of that composer.

He had a pleasant life, doing the things he most wanted to do. His marriage to Olive Clarke, a brilliant member of that remarkable band of young women who formed the first staff of the Islington Public Libraries, has been followed by many years of complete happiness. Our thoughts must go out to Mrs. Sayers at this time.

Sayers was a remarkable man, modest about his achievements, kindliness itself in helping others, and distinguished by his courtesy and his consideration for all with whom he came in contact.

We have lost an outstanding figure from our ranks, and a great many of us have lost a real and very dear friend.

[*Other tributes received will appear in the next issue.*]

#### Research in Librarianship

The Department of Librarianship, North-Western Polytechnic, is arranging a series of some twelve lectures on research in librarianship and information work. The lectures will be given at six sessions (three at Chaucer House and three at Aslib Headquarters) on Wednesday afternoons, at approximately fortnightly intervals from 4th January, 1961. The papers will be given by speakers from many kinds of libraries and from other bodies such as the Social Survey.

Prospectuses for this course may be obtained by applying to: Head of Department of Librarianship, North-Western Polytechnic, Prince of Wales Road, N.W.5. (Tel: GUL 1154).

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## Reviews

CHICAGO TEACHERS COLLEGE. *Cataloging and processing procedures for elementary school libraries: a manual of practice for the Chicago public schools*. 1959. 130 pp. (Large 4to typescript photoreproduction.) (Chicago Teachers College, 6800 S. Stewart Avenue, Chicago 21, Ill., \$1.)

This manual has a twofold purpose: firstly, to act as guide and exemplar for the school librarian in acquiring and organizing books for use in primary schools; secondly, to serve as textbook for a Library Science Course at Chicago Teachers College. It begins with a numbered list of steps taken to prepare a book for circulation, and shows a sample catalogue card, with the parts named and indentation specified as so many typewriter spaces. Unit cards are recommended and adaptation for secondary entries demonstrated. Throughout, the usual simplifications of common practice are advocated: very sparing use of added author entries, preference for entry under pseudonym, retention of capital letters in titles.

Detailed and well-illustrated instructions are given for making author and subject entries and references for books and periodicals and for audio-visual materials. "In most school libraries a dictionary catalog in card form is used", says the manual, and although the term Catalog in the Glossary refers one also to Classified Catalog, this does not appear in the Glossary —nor anywhere else in the book.

There are also sections on the maintenance of the collection, a subject guide to the Dewey Decimal Classification, rules for filing, a glossary of terms and a bibliography for the cataloguer of school library materials.

Because it is designed to be used also as a textbook, this manual is far more detailed than the existing English guides for school librarians, though, as I have said, it gives no guidance on making a classified catalogue, a form recommended to school librarians in this country. It also presupposes a local context, with special buying facilities and Wilson book cards. Its use here would, I think, be limited to clarifying practice on a teacher-librarians' course. The style is informal ("alternate title" must be only a typing error), and the lay-out is clear and attractive.

MARY PIGGOTT

*Impex reference catalogue of Indian books*. Published by Indian Book Export & Import Co., 22 B/2 Desh Bandhu Gupta Road,

Karol Bagh, New Delhi 5, India. 1st ed. 1960. Rs. 40.

The Indian national bibliography was reviewed in the RECORD of March, 1959 by C. G. Viswanathan. Now comes the Indian "Whitaker", a volume of 236 + 468 pp. The two sections are made up as follows:

I—Divided into "broad subject groupings" within which the entries are arranged by alphabetical order of authors. The subjects themselves are in alphabetical order, from Accountancy to Zoology, Natural History and Biology, and the foreword warns users that the subject groupings are, "not to be taken in the strict library-classification sense and may not fulfil the criteria of conventional classification schemes". This section does not contain books which are not by a personal author, e.g., *Oxford economic atlas for India and Ceylon*, but books issued by institutes are included, e.g., Indian Council of Agricultural Research. However, the same note includes among the "non-author" group, such works as *About India*, issued by the Publication Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, so there may be some confusion over the application of this decision. The whole section is preceded by a list of publishers' names and addresses.

II—The arrangement here is by author, title, "catchword-title" and, sometimes series. An example of "catchword-title" entry would be: Ancient India, Political history of, by Raychaudhuri, which appears also under "Political history of Ancient India" as well as under the author. The inclusion of series may be quite helpful, but it is not clear upon what basis series titles have been included or omitted. At the end of this section is a supplement which includes a number of publications of the Central and Provincial Governments; this is described as an experiment, and future policy will be decided on the basis of whether the experiment is adjudged a success or not. Finally, users are asked to look under all possible variants of an author's name, in case of difficulty, e.g., Agarwal(a), Aggarwal(a), Agrawal(a).

The whole work is described as a list of Indian publications in English which are in print, and it is to be widely welcomed; it is very much to be hoped that British libraries will support such an important venture and so help to justify the expenditure involved. By doing so, they may help to encourage other Asian nations to issue comparable guides, and so help to make the

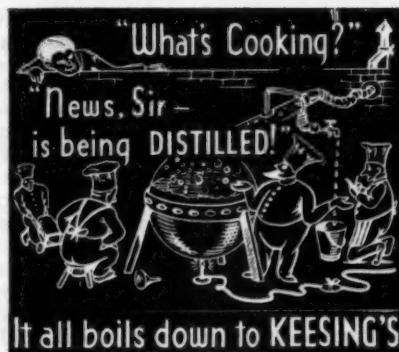
task of librarians the world over just that much easier. A minor criticism is that the two parts are separately paginated, which may occasionally lead to confusion.

R. J. Hoy

DAHL (SVEND), *ed. Nordisk håndbog i bibliotekskundskab*. Udgivet af Nordisk videnskabeligt bibliotekarforbund. Bind III. 1960. 520 pp. illus. (Copenhagen, Alfred G. Hassing, 75.00 Danish kroner [cloth bound] or 90.00 Dan. kr. [half leather]). (Complete work 210 or 250 Dan. kr.).

*Lærebog i biblioteksteknik*. 4. udgave, redigeret af E. Allerslev Jensen. 1959. 3 vols. illus. (Copenhagen, Dansk bibliografisk kontor, 78.00 Dan. kr.).

The first two volumes of Svend Dahl's Scandinavian manual of librarianship were reviewed in the RECORD in March, 1958 and September, 1959. This third volume completes the work, and deals with the technical aspects of the subjects discussed historically in the other two: papermaking, printing, binding, bookselling and publishing, library administration, methods and buildings, special collections and special libraries, documentation and bibliography. Finally, there are subject and name indexes to all three volumes. The work being intended for the staffs of national and learned libraries, rather than for those of the public libraries, many of the sections in Volume III discuss underlying principles rather than details. Cataloguing and classification are surveyed in this way in the space of forty pages; Helle Kannila of Helsinki outlines the administration and techniques of public libraries in thirty-four. On the other hand, topics which more particularly concern learned libraries are treated in greater detail than one would normally find in such a general work: there is, for example, a chapter devoted to the preservation and repair of old books and documents, complete with a bibliography of nineteen items in English, German, French and Danish. (There are similar bibliographies attached to each chapter). The sections on manuscript collections and orientalia, etc., not only discuss administrative problems, but also include descriptions of the world's major collections, with emphasis on Scandinavian ones where appropriate. Gösta Ottervik's chapter on bibliography describes the different types of bibliographies, their arrangement and problems of compilation, with examples. He makes no attempt to compete with Malclès or Besterman, but a short appendix of national bibliographies is valuable (particularly for the Scandinavian countries) and is very clearly set out so that one



can see at a glance what the chief works are for each land in each period and in each form, e.g., books, periodicals, translations.

*Lærebog i biblioteksteknik* (Textbook of librarianship), now in its fourth edition, is the standard Danish work for library school students mainly from public libraries. It has appeared in various forms: the previous edition was a Scandinavian compilation, and was published in separate chapter fascicles, while the present three-volume edition is Danish apart from two Swedish contributions. The first volume (which should have been one of the sections of the third edition) is by the Swedish architect Jan Wallinder, and is entirely devoted to library buildings. The seventy-odd pages have a hundred or so plans, but are devoid of illustrations. This omission is to some extent made good by the illustrations to the other chapters. This volume might be of some use to British librarians planning new buildings; the remainder of the work is library school material in a Danish context. Like the other work discussed, it is very pleasingly produced.

Your reviewer does not suffer from the illusion that Chaucer House will be swamped with requests for these books. However, he invites library school tutors to look at them, and to discuss one or two points which come to mind. First, *is there a place for such works in this country?* Have we anything at all corresponding to Dahl's manual? Would students, particularly those in country districts who cannot get to library school or evening classes, welcome an English equivalent of the *Lærebog*? We have plenty of one-man primers and introductions for the beginner taking F.P.E., but what have we got between them and the shoals of monographs on separate subjects? The danger of the one-man

comprehensive book is that the author will give free rein to (or at least write more interestingly about) his favourite subjects at the expense of others. The Danish work avoids this danger, for each author is writing about his own special interest, and the general editor is there to see fair play. Each chapter is furnished with references, so that the work is not a dead end in itself, but a sound basis and background (at about Registration level) for studies which may then be pursued in greater detail.

The second question arises from a glance at the various chapters and the space they occupy. *Is our syllabus properly balanced?* Do we spend too much time studying techniques instead of the materials we are administering?

How many of our textbooks give more space to children's and school libraries than to classification, or as much to hospital and barracks libraries as to cataloguing? It should not be thought that the *Lærebog* is perfect: it has been unevenly revised, and some subjects have been very cursorily treated or omitted altogether. Even so, together with the three volumes of Dahl's fine manual, it provides a wealth of material for comparison and discussion. A. G. CURWEN

(continued from page 378).

Jackson, C. M. Goldsmith's new branch library, Shore-ditch. *Lib. Assn. Rec.*, April, 1951, 52 (4), 127-128, photo.

*Southampton*

Lynn, R. W. Branch library development at Southampton. *Lib. Assn. Rec.*, August, 1952, 54 (8), 268.

*Southampton, Maybush Branch*

Maybush Branch Library (Southampton). *Municipal Jnl.* (3153), 24th July, 1953, 1602.

*Surbiton, Chessington Branch*

Jackson, I. F. Chessington Branch Library, Surbiton. *Lib. Assn. Rec.*, March, 1951, 53 (3), 81-82, photo.

*Tottenham, Coombes Croft Branch*

*Architect's Jnl.*, 122 (3154), 1955, 184-185. *Arch. and Bldg. News*, 207 (8), 1955, 247-50.

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Appointments and Retirements

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BRANDRETH.—Mr. E. Brandreth, A.L.A., Branch Librarian, Plymouth P.L., to be Branch Librarian, Harpenden, Herts. Co. L.

BREBNER.—Miss M. A. Brebner, F.L.A., Librarian, Institute of Jamaica, Kingston, Jamaica, W.I., to be Librarian, The British Council, Dacca, East Pakistan.

BRITNELL.—Miss J. M. Britnell, Assistant, Southampton Univ. L., to be Assistant, Somerset Co. L.

BROWN.—Miss I. Brown, Children's Librarian, Warrington P.L., to take up an internship in the Boys and Girls Division, Toronto P.L., Canada.

BULLOCK.—Mr. P. Bullock, Senior Assistant, Hornsey P.L., to be Senior Assistant, Harpenden Branch, Herts. Co. L.

BURKE.—Mr. B. M. Burke, Classifier and Cataloguer, English Electric Aviation Ltd., to be Deputy Librarian, Rubery, Owen & Co. Ltd.

BYRNE.—Mr. P. Byrne, A.L.A., Reference Library Assistant, Middlesbrough P.L., to be Senior Assistant, Eston Branch, North Riding Co. L.

CLARK.—Mrs. M. J. Clark, A.L.A., to be Regional Children's Librarian, Herts. Co. L.

CLARKE.—Mr. Peter B. Clarke, M.A., A.L.A., Head of Circulation Dept., Fife Co. L., to be Deputy County Librarian, Cumberland Co. L.

CLARKE.—Mrs. Sheila A. B. Clarke (née Churchill), A.L.A., Assistant, Solihull P.L., to resign on marriage.

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COUPE.—Mrs. G. Coupe (*née* Worsley), F.L.A., to be Deputy Librarian-in-charge, Prestwich Area, Lancs. Co.L.

DAILEY.—Miss J. L. Dailey, First Assistant, Southwark P.L., to be Reference Librarian, Merton and Morden (Surrey) P.L.

DAVIES.—Miss M. Davies, B.A., Library Assistant, Droylsden and Audenshaw Area, to be Senior Assistant, Droylsden and Audenshaw Area, Lancs. Co.L.

DEAN.—Mr. D. E. Dean, M.A., A.L.A., Deputy Librarian, Royal Commonwealth Society, to be Deputy Librarian, Royal Institute of British Architects.

DZIELSKI.—Mrs. B. M. Dzieski (*née* West), F.L.A., Chief Cataloguer, Greenwich P.L., to be Branch Librarian, Blackfen Branch, Chislehurst and Sidcup P.L.

EGHAN.—Mr. P. G. Eghan, Assistant, University College Library, Legon, to be Librarian, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Accra, Ghana.

FIFOOT.—Mr. E. R. S. Fifoot, B.A., A.L.A., Deputy Librarian, Nottingham Univ. L., to be University Librarian, Edinburgh Univ. L.

FURNESS.—Miss N. Furness, Chief Assistant, Middlesbrough P.L., to resign.

GORING-THOMAS.—Mr. G. E. F. Goring-Thomas, T.D., A.L.A., Hon. Borough Librarian, Henley-on-Thames P.L., has retired.

GRAHAM.—Mr. F. A. Graham, A.L.A., Librarian/Information Officer, Vickers Armstrong (Engineers) Ltd., to be Librarian, James A. Jobling & Co., Ltd., Wear Glass Works, Sunderland, Co. Durham.

Gwynne-Jones.—Miss M. Gwynne-Jones, M.A., Assistant, Leicester Colleges of Art and Technology, to be Librarian, Basingstoke Technical College.

HAVARD-WILLIAMS.—Mr. P. Havard-Williams, M.A., A.L.A., A.N.Z.L.A., Librarian and Keeper of the Hocken Collection, Univ. of Otago, N.Z., to be Deputy Librarian, Brotherton Library, Univ. of Leeds.

HUGHES.—Mr. M. R. Hughes, A.L.A., Deputy District Librarian, Cheshire Co.L., to be Senior Regional Assistant, Herts. Co.L.

HUMPHRIES.—Miss M. R. Humphries, A.L.A., Assistant, Gloucester Co.L., to be Mobile Librarian, Herts. Co.L.

IRELAND.—Mrs. P. Ireland (*née* Richmond), Assistant, Eccles P.L., has resigned on marriage.

IRVINE.—Miss N. Irvine, Cataloguer, Wandsworth P.L., to be Mobile Librarian, Oxford Co.L.

JEFFERY.—Mrs. M. Jeffery (*née* Thurston), Assistant, Croydon P.L., to be Senior Assistant, Reference Library, Bedford Co.L.

LEE.—Miss S. C. Lee, B.A., A.L.A., to be Branch Librarian, Hatfield, Herts. Co.L.

LIVERSEED.—Miss M. A. Liverseed, North Riding Co.L., to be Senior Assistant, Central Lending Department, Middlesbrough P.L.

LOWMAN.—Mr. B. W. Lowman, Assistant, Gilstrap P.L., Newark-upon-Trent, to be Assistant, Fulham P.L.

LUCAS.—Miss J. F. Lucas, A.L.A., Assistant, Welwyn Garden City Branch, to be Trailer Librarian, Herts. Co.L.

LUMB.—Miss E. A. Lumb, M.A., A.L.A., Senior Assistant/Cataloguer, Eccles P.L., to be Cataloguer, University Medical Library, Manchester University.

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MARTIN.—Mr. G. T. Martin, A.L.A., Assistant Cataloguer, British National Bibliography, has resigned.

MASON.—Miss M. E. Mason, F.L.A., Chief Cataloguer, Birkenhead P.L., has retired.

MATTHEWS.—Miss M. D. Matthews, A.L.A., Branch Librarian, Harpenden Branch, Herts. Co.L., to be Interne Librarian, Adult Circulation Division, Toronto P.L., Canada.

MEHRTENS.—Mrs. M. E. L. Mehrten (*née* Stevenson), Assistant, Institute of Electrical Engineers, to be Assistant, Texas Instruments Ltd., Bedford.

O'NEAL.—Mr. R. A. H. O'Neal, B.A., A.L.A., Senior Assistant, Derby Co.L., to be Reference Librarian, Chesterfield P.L.

OWEN.—Miss M. Owen, A.L.A., Librarian, Birkenhead Technical College, to be Assistant Librarian, U.K.A.E.A. Development and Engineering Group, Capenhurst.

PAYNE.—Mr. G. S. Payne, Library Assistant, Cardiff P.L., to be Senior Assistant, Beaconsfield Branch Library, Bucks. Co.L.

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PRINCE.—Mrs. G. A. Prince (*née* Thurman), to be Senior Assistant, Hatfield Branch, Herts. Co.L.

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RANDLE.—Miss T. A. Randle, Assistant, Sutton & Cheam P.L., to be Reference Librarian, Herts. Co.L.

ROGERS.—Mr. T. W. Rogers to be Assistant, Woolwich P.L.

ROGERTON.—Mr. I. Rogerton, A.L.A., Librarian, Luton College of Technology, to be Librarian, The Harris College, Corporation Street, Preston.

ROPER.—Miss Ann Roper, Information Officer, British Institute of Management, to be Senior Assistant Librarian, European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), Geneva.

RUSSELL.—Mr. B. Russell, Junior Assistant, Bethnal Green P.L., to be Library Assistant.

SEACOMBE.—Mrs. A. J. Seacombe (*née* Spencer), F.L.A., Deputy Librarian-in-charge, Urmston Area, Lancs. Co.L., to retire.

SMITH.—Mr. A. Smith, A.L.A., Librarian and Curator, Gilstrap P.L., Newark-on-Trent, to retire after 50 years' service.

SMITH.—Mr. J. S. Smith, A.L.A., City Librarian, Goulburn, N.S.W., to be Chief Librarian, Namoi Regional Library, N.S.W., Australia.

**SPINK.**—Mr. J. E. Spink, A.L.A., Assistant, Kensington P.L., to be Librarian, The College, Swindon.

**STARK.**—Mr. H. P. Stark, A.L.A., Senior Assistant, Worthing P.L., to be Senior Assistant, St. Marylebone P.L.

**STOTT.**—Mrs. J. Stott, A.L.A., Senior Assistant, Urmston Area, to be Deputy Librarian-in-charge, Urmston Area, Lancs. Co.L.

**TAYLOR.**—Miss R. Taylor, M.A., Librarian, The Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland, to be Librarian, Haverstock School, London (L.C.C. Education Library Service).

**TEAGUE.**—Mr. S. J. Teague, F.L.A., Chief Assistant, Chelsea P.L., to be Librarian, Chelsea College of Science and Technology.

**THOMAS.**—Mr. A. R. Thomas, F.L.A., Branch Librarian, Lewisham P.L., to be Deputy Reference Librarian, Kensington P.L.

**THOMAS.**—Mr. R. M. Thomas, M.A., A.L.A., Branch Librarian, Ealing P.L., to be Librarian, Hastings College of Further Education.

**TINDALL.**—Miss S. Tindall, Assistant, Wakefield P.L., to be Assistant, Middlesbrough P.L.

**TURNER.**—Mr. J. Turner, B.A., A.L.A., Senior Assistant, Eccles P.L., to be Librarian, College of Air Training Hamble.

**VOSPER.**—Mr. R. G. Vosper, Director of Libraries, Univ. of Kansas, to be Head Librarian and Professor of Library Service, University of California, at Los Angeles.

**WALKER.**—Miss D. E. Walker, F.L.A., Assistant Librarian, Commonwealth National Library, Canberra, to be Library Assistant (Cataloguing), Library of the School of General Studies, Australian National University, Canberra.

**WARD.**—Mr. P. Ward, Assistant Librarian, Hayes Branch, Middlesex Co.L., to be Cataloguer, Wimbledon P.L.

**WHITEMAN.**—Mr. P. M. Whiteman, F.L.A., Lecturer, Leeds School of Librarianship, to be Head of Dept. of Librarianship, Manchester College of Commerce, seconded to the staff of the Manchester College of Science and Technology.

**WILLIAMS.**—Miss N. P. Williams, Assistant, Worthing P.L., to be Assistant, Owen Organization, Library and Information Service, Rubery, Owen and Co. Ltd., Darlaston.

**WOOLER.**—Mrs. M. Wooler (*née* White), Assistant, Eccles P.L., has resigned.

## Appointments Vacant

Chartered Librarians are advised to refrain from applying for any post in public libraries demanding Registration Qualifications (A.L.A. or F.L.A.) which is advertised in the General or Clerical Divisions of the National Scales or in accordance with the Miscellaneous Salary Scales.

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Applications (with copy references only) should reach the undersigned by 4 p.m. on Monday, 19th December, 1960, and should state age, marital state, and the earliest date on which duties could be commenced.

The Municipality of Fairfield covers an area of approximately 37 square miles and is situated on the western fringes of the Sydney metropolitan area. The population of 69,000 is growing at the rate of about 5,000 a year. The Library Service, which commenced in 1950, consists of a temporary central library and headquarters, one branch library and a mobile library. Plans are in hand for a new central library and three additional branch libraries. The Chief Librarian is W. L. Brown, A.L.A., and there is a staff of 14.

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(continued on page vii)

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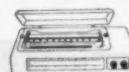
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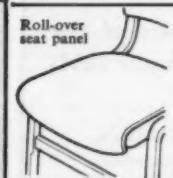
No-sag seat spring



Latex on ply



Yarmouth Stacker



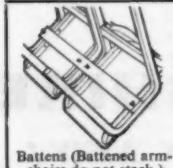
Roll-over seat panel



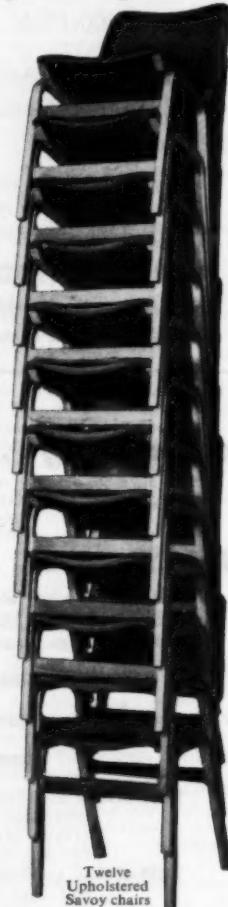
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Concert and Assembly range unit seating



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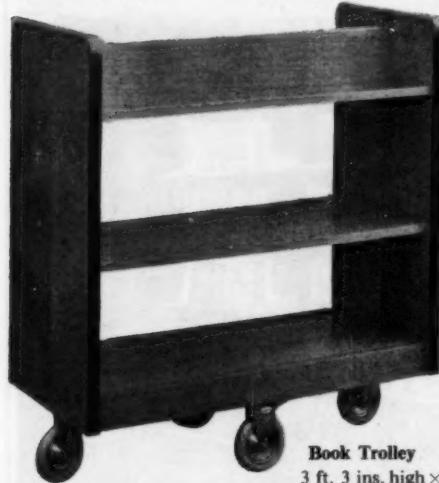
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*Appointments Vacant (continued from page 388)*

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## THE INDEXER

*Journal of the Society of Indexers*

This periodical, founded in 1958, is published twice a year, four issues forming a volume. Volume 1 was completed with the Autumn, 1959 issue.

Recent articles include P. R. B. Claridge: Mechanized indexing of information on chemical compounds in plants (Spring, 1960); J. Edwin Holmstrom: Some ideas on indexing (Autumn, 1959); and J. Mills: Indexing a classification scheme (Autumn, 1960).

Subscription rates: Annual, 10s. 6d., or 1 gn. per volume. Bound copies of Vol. 1, 35s.

A sample copy may be had on application to the Hon. Editor, *The Indexer*, 120 Grasmere Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex. Subscriptions should be addressed to the Hon. Treasurer, Society of Indexers, 39 Rudall Crescent, Hampstead, London, N.W.3.

## OPTICIANS REGISTER

1960

The Opticians Register, 1960, is now ready. This is the first issue of registers and lists kept by the General Optical Council and published under the provisions of the Opticians Act, 1958.

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Institute of British Engineers

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### For Disposal

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Vols. of *House of Commons Debates* covering the years 1944-1956 (170 bound vols., 130 unbound vols., some parts missing) to any library willing to pay cost of carriage. Apply: The Librarian, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, Cardiganshire, Wales.

A set of Library of Congress cards (sorted up to 1942; inserted since that date) is available either complete or in part as a free gift. Librarians who are interested are asked to communicate with the Librarian of the National Central Library.

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